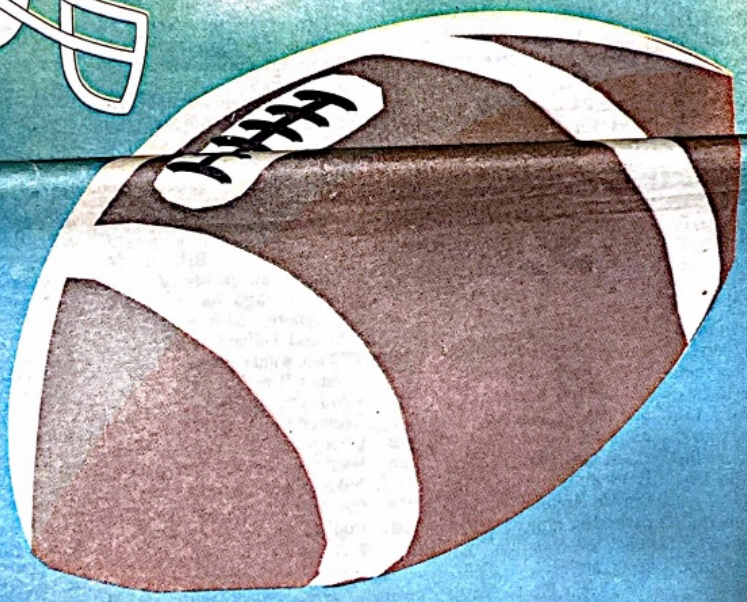
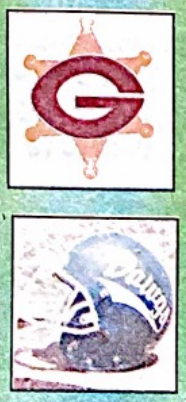
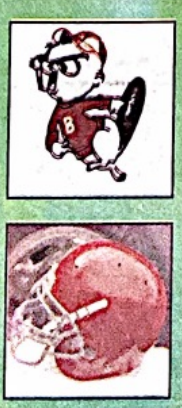
FOOTBALL '99

Friday, August 27, 1999

Your guide to area high school and college football teams for the upcoming 1999 season

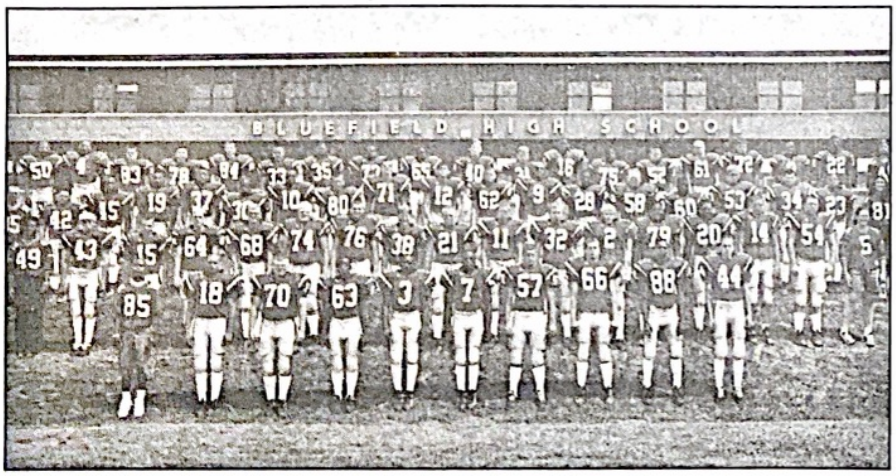






Bluefield High School Beavers

Beavers realize good start is critical



The 1999 Bluefield High School Beavers

By TEDDY PAYNTER
of the Daily Telegraph staff

BLUEFIELD - Bluefield coach Fred Simon is hopeful his Beavers can make it back to the Class AA playoffs this season.

It's not going to be an easy road at all. In fact, this is one of the toughest schedules the Beavers have played under his leadership.

The Beavers will open with its traditional backyard brawl on Friday, Aug. 27th, against bitter-rival Graham at Mitchell Stadium. Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

The following week the Beavers travel to Princeton to face the highly-touted Tigers. It doesn't get any easier after that. Bluefield is back home to face Greenbrier East (Sept. 10), before traveling to Pulaski County, Va. (Sept. 17) to face the Cougars and then to Beckley (Sept. 24).

"It's the toughest schedule we've had since I've been here without any question," Simon said.

Beaver schedule

Aug. 27	at Graham
Sept. 3	at Princeton
Sept. 10	**Greenbrier East**
Sept. 17	at Pulaski, Va.
Sept. 24	at Woodrow Wilson
Oct. 1	at PikeView
Oct. 8	**Poca**
Oct. 15	**Mount View**
Oct. 22	Open
Oct. 29	at Richlands, Va.
Nov. 5	**Shady Spring**

Bluefield will try and bounce back from a disappointing 4-6 record last year. To do so, the Beavers must stay healthy at key positions and hope other players develop quickly.

Bluefield has always been blessed with outstanding running backs. It's no different again this time around either. Returning is senior sprinter Donald Amaker (5-11, 175). He rushed for almost 800 yards last year, even when opponents keyed on him.

"He's our top back with question. He has outstanding speed," Simon said.

The Beavers return just a handful of starters from one year ago. So a lot of positions remain up in the air as the opener nears.

Tremayne Bennett (5-11, 180, Sr.) is another solid running back at the halfback positions for Bluefield. Juniors David Harris (6-1, 219) and Craig Bauer (6-2, 206) possess good size as fullbacks.

Junior Jarrod Sudduth (6-2, 173) is one of three quarterbacks on the BHS roster. Sudduth saw plenty of action one year ago as a backup. Sophomores Nick Simon (6-2, 179) and William Smalls (5-11, 177) are solid as well.

Senior Brandon Williams (6-1, 199) is among the top returning linemen for the Beavers. Senior George Cooke (5-9, 174) has been solid as well. Senior guard Mike Williams (6-2, 196) will be a load to handle as well along the front, and junior Scott Hayes (6-3, 256) is among the top tackles

See Bluefield, Page 31

1999 Bluefield Beavers Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 2 David Orr	5-11	144	K	JR
No. 3 Donald Amaker	5-11	175	HB	SR
No. 4 Tony Napper	5-10	173	HB	FR
No. 7 Tremayne Bennett	5-11	180	HB	SR
No. 8 Dajuaun Howze	5-7	126	QB	FR
No. 9 Steve Wilkes	6-1	170	E	SO
No. 10 William Smalls	5-11	177	QB	SO
No. 11 Jason Thompson	6-0	170	E	JR
No. 12 Nicholas Simon	6-2	179	QB	SO
No. 14 Jarrodd Sudduth	6-2	173	QB	JR
No. 15 Charles Baker	5-8	131	HB	JR
No. 16 Brian Johnson	5-9	138	E	FR
No. 18 Ronnel Thompson	6-0	190	E	SR
No. 19 Aaron Coleman	5-10	162	HB	JR
No. 20 David Harris	6-1	219	FB	JR
No. 21 Craig Bauer	6-2	206	FB	JR
No. 22 Anthony Isabelle	5-9	140	HB	FR
No. 23 Anthony Steptoe	5-9	129	E	FR
No. 28 Larnell Harris	5-7	134	E	SO
No. 30 John Hopkins	5-8	183	FB	SO
No. 31 Aron Honaker	5-4	117	FB	FR
No. 32 John Canterbury	6-0	169	E	JR
No. 33 Trey Farley	5-9	137	E	FR
No. 34 Josh Hart	5-9	186	FB	SO
No. 35 Anthony Wright	5-8	126	FB	FR
No. 37 Brandon Wade	6-0	152	HB	SO
No. 38 Gene Stanton	5-11	173	E	JR
No. 40 David Thompson	5-9	158	E	SO
No. 42 Patrick Mercer	5-3	190	FB	FR
No. 43 Randy Neal	5-10	147	E	JR
No. 44 Charles Pruerr	6-4	161	K	SR
No. 45 Jonathan Murray	5-7	173	HB	FR
No. 50 Andreus Wright	5-9	139	C	FR
No. 52 Brandon Jones	5-3	162	T	FR
No. 53 Adam Williams	5-10	166	G	FR
No. 54 Scott Hayes	6-3	256	T	J
No. 57 Brandon Williams	6-1	199	G	RSR
No. 58 Johnathan Sullivan	5-9	206	T	SO
No. 60 Brandon Mathews	5-5	234	G	FR
No. 61 Josh Brown	5-7	147	G	FR
No. 62 Doug Tinder	5-8	165	G	SO
No. 63 George Cooke	5-9	174	G	SR
No. 64 Bo Rose	5-10	196	C	JR
No. 65 Sterling Green	5-5	196	T	SO
No. 66 Mike Williams	6-2	196	G	SR
No. 68 Donnie Carter	6-0	158	G	JR
No. 70 Brian Carter	5-11	234	T	SR
No. 71 Bobby Barber	6-4	201	G	SO
No. 72 John Baker	5-7	158	T	FR
No. 73 Buster Jordan	5-6	195	T	SO
No. 74 Eric Parks	6-2	260	T	JR
No. 75 Joe Hodge	5-4	140	G	FR
No. 76 Robert Suttle	6-4	232	C	JR
No. 78 Bobby Truman	5-8	132	T	JR
No. 79 John Thompson	6-1	284	T	JR
No. 80 Donnie Wolford	5-7	142	E	SO
No. 83 David Light	5-9	122	E	FR
No. 84 Jarrod Prol	5-10	145	E	FR
No. 88 John Patton	6-3	171	E	SR

Good Luck Beavers!
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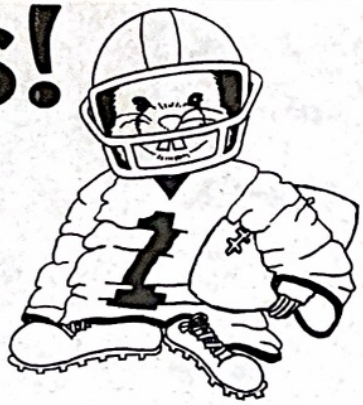
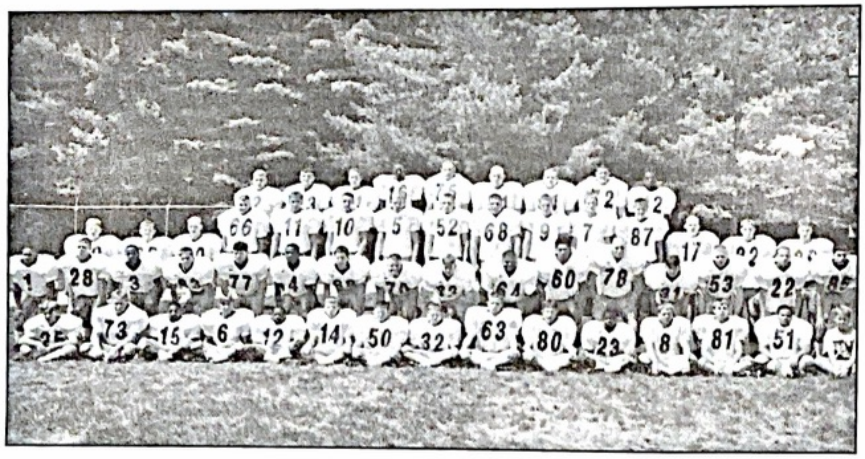


Graham High School G-Men

G-Men optimistic as '99 season nears



The 1999 Graham High School G-Men

By TEDDY PAYNTER
of the Daily Telegraph

BLUEFIELD, Va. - You kind of got the feeling things were making a turn for the better late in the 1998 high school football season for the Graham High School G-Men.

After a sluggish start, veteran Coach Glynn Carlock's team came on strong and finished up 7-6 overall. The G-Men advanced to the Group AA state semifinals before falling to Rustburg.

Carlock is hope the late-season success of that team carries over into the 1999 season when begins at Mitchell Stadium against bitter rival Bluefield on Friday, Aug. 27th.

Graham's possesses one of the state's most prized running backs in senior Leonard "Sugar Ray" Graves (6-3, 197). Graves rushed for 1,372 yards during the regular season and had over 2,100 all-purpose yards for the year.

The G-Men have experience in the skill positions. Stephen Gunter (5-10, 195, Sr.) is another strong halfback who will cause headaches for opponents. Add to the mix Ryan Farmer (5-10, 186, Sr.) and you have three solid performers.

Carlock must find a quarterback replacement. He has four players bidding for the job, but it will likely be shared by senior Brian French (6-0, 165) and junior J.V. Flanagan (5-10, 180). Both are very capable of guiding the G-Men up and down the football field.

An experienced offensive line will make Graham explosive offensively.

Graham has two outstanding guards in Kraig Kirk (5-10, 242, So.) and Britton Williams (5-11, 275). Both are young players with good size and good work habits. Center Ronnie Alley (5-10, 160, Sr.) is back as well. Zack Thompson (5-10, 200, Sr.).

Senior Nick Taylor (5-10, 172, Sr.) is one of the top returning ends along with Mike Ray (5-11, 178, Sr.), and Aaron Hicks (6-2, 175, Sr.).

Senior Phillip Larry (6-0, 202, Sr.) is a rugged fullback, but will be a key figure on defense as Graham looks to shut down its oppoents in the Southwest District.

Graham is looking to once again return to the top of the SWD standings with a veteran team. The 7-6 overall finish last year also included a 3-1 record within the district.

The schedule is going to be a real challenge for the G-Men. All

See Graham, Page 30

G-Men schedule

Aug. 27	**Bluefield**
Sept. 3	at Blacksburg
Sept. 11	**Tennessee High**
Sept. 17	Open
Sept. 24	at Richlands
Oct. 1	**Gate City**
Oct. 8	at Council
Oct. 15	at Tazewell
Oct. 22	**Elizabethton, Tenn.**
Oct. 29	at Carroll County
Nov. 5	at Mount View

1999 Graham G-Men Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 1 Paco Jones	5-7	150	SO	HB
No. 2 Nick Taylor	5-10	172	SR	E
No. 3 H.T. Matthews	5-11	150	FR	QB
No. 4 Reed Oakes	5-9	155	SO	HB
No. 5 Mike Ray	5-11	178	SR	E
No. 6 Michael Osborne	5-7	132	FR	HB
No. 7 Brian French	6-0	165	SR	QB
No. 8 Daniel Epperson	5-7	147	FR	HB
No. 9 Stephen Gunter	5-10	195	SR	HB
No. 10 Terrance DeGray	5-9	158	SR	E/K
No. 11 J.V. Flanagan	5-10	180	JR	QB
No. 12 Javon Williamson	5-1	122	JR	HB
No. 14 Matt Dixon	5-8	140	FR	QB
No. 15 Ryan French	5-8	130	SO	HB
No. 16 Lenoard Graves	6-3	197	SR	HB
No. 17 Aaron Hicks	6-2	175	SR	E
No. 20 Brandon Mitchem	6-1	140	FR	E
No. 21 Ryan Farmer	5-10	186	SR	HB
No. 22 Scott Tibbs	5-8	138	JR	HB
No. 23 James Turner	5-4	120	FR	HB
No. 28 Kenny Goins	5-9	140	JR	HB
No. 30 T.J. Stinson	5-8	116	FR	HB
No. 31 Brett Hill	5-10	138	FR	HB
No. 32 Cole Lusk	5-6	105	FR	HB
No. 33 Chase Elswick	5-9	175	SO	FB
No. 36/43 Phillip Larry	6-0	202	SR	FB
No. 42 Reggie Fitzgerald	6-0	180	JR	HB/FB
No. 44 Aaign Jackson	5-3	110	FR	HB
No. 50 Zack Short	5-1	125	FR	C
No. 51 Rex Bradshaw	5-6	175	SO	G
No. 52 Nick Thompson	5-10	200	SR	G
No. 58 Kevin Larry	5-10	200	SO	C
No. 60 S.A. Powell	5-11	275	SO	G
No. 61 Britton Williams	6-1	160	SO	T
No. 63 Adam Wimmer	5-8	280	FR	G
No. 64 Jason Thornhill	5-9	170	FR	T
No. 65 Josh Bishop	5-10	160	SR	C
No. 66 Ronnie Alley	5-10	242	SO	G
No. 68 Kraig Kirk	5-9	210	JR	T
No. 70 Tom Keim	6-2	270	SR	T
No. 71 Michael Taylor	6-2	255	FR	T
No. 72 Jason Mullins	5-9	180	FR	T
No. 73 Shaun Fountain	6-3	225	SR	T
No. 75 Zack Bowman	5-10	205	SO	T
No. 77 Frankie Rasi	6-0	235	FR	C
No. 78 Robbie Taylor	5-11	220	FR	G
No. 79 Brandon Morri	5-7	136	FR	E
No. 80 Mark Huffman	5-8	140	SO	E
No. 81 Casey Lusk	6-0	160	FR	E
No. 82 Eddie Fanning	5-10	145	FR	E
No. 83 Todd Clarkson	5-8	132	FR	E
No. 85 Shawn Goins	5-9	165	JR	E
No. 87 Tripp Johnson	5-10	147	FR	E
No. 88 Tony DiMaggio	5-11	148	FR	E
No. 89 Matt Fiery				

Graham High School
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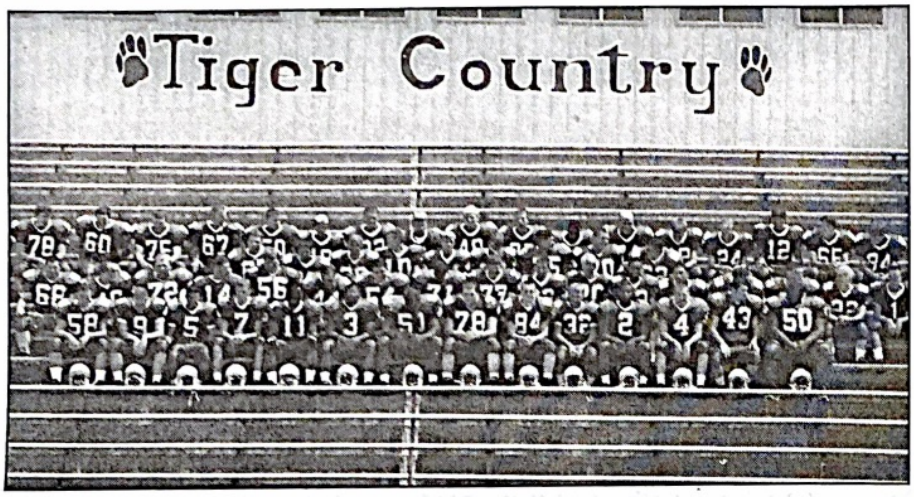
Princeton Senior High School Tigers

Tigers blessed with size, speed, talent



The 1999 Princeton Senior High School Tigers

By DOUG STREET
of the *Daily Telegraph* staff

PRINCETON — After just missing the playoffs in 1998, the Princeton Tigers are looking to claw their way through the Class AAA ranks and into the 1999 playoff battle.

What may hold the Tigers back is a very tough schedule that begins Aug. 27 against Greenbrier East at Tiger Stadium. What follows is a home game against Mercer County rival Bluefield (Sept. 3), then road games against Herbert Hoover (Sept. 10) and Oak Hill (Sept. 17).

Other opponents for the Tigers include Nicholas County, Hurricane, South Charleston, Ruichlands, James Monroe and Mount View. And without an easy game in the bunch, long-time Princeton head coach Ted Spadaro knows his squad has a tough road to the playoffs.

"This may very well be our toughest schedule since I've been here," Spadaro said. "But we're going to take these games one at a time and challenge it and I think if we play with enough initiative that it takes to win football games then we'll be in good shape."

While most teams rely on quarterbacks to handle the offensive load, Princeton will have speedy senior tailback Tyrone Gilliard (5-10, 170) to possibly carry the Tigers to the playoffs.

Gilliard, who has already verbally committed to play at the University of Pittsburgh, rushed for 1,310 yards as a junior and the Tigers will look for even bigger things from him this season.

While Gilliard will take most of the carries, Spadaro is also looking toward senior Eric Plumley (6-0, 210) and juniors Jordan Hutchinson (5-7, 155), David Day (5-8, 170) and Cameron Baxter (5-9, 170) to take some of the weight off Gilliard's shoulders.

Two seniors, Robby Benfield and Jon Shorter, each may see time at quarterback for Princeton this season. It looks as if Benfield (5-11, 145) will get the start Friday against Greenbrier East, but Spadaro did not rule out Shorter (6-2, 205) seeing time through the season as well.

"That was a very tough thing to decide," Spadaro said of his quarterback choice. "Sometimes one quarterback will look good one week and the other will look good the next game, so it's one of those things you have to evaluate each day.

"We have confidence in both players right now. But if one had something over the other, I

See Princeton, Page 17

Tigers schedule

Aug. 27	**Greenbrier East**
Sept. 3	**Bluefield**
Sept. 10	at Herbert Hoover
Sept. 17	at Oak Hill
Sept. 24	**Nicholas County**
Oct. 1	at Hurricane
Oct. 8	at South Charleston
Oct. 15	***Richlands, Va.***
Oct. 22	*at James Monroe*
Oct. 29	**Mount View**
Nov. 5	Open

1999 Princeton Tigers Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 1 Chris Vanover	5-8	150	WR	JR
No. 2 Tyrone Gilliard	5-10	170	RB	SR
No. 4 Eric Plumley	6-0	210	RB	SR
No. 5 Robbie Benfield	5-11	145	QB	SR
No. 7 Maitland Bailey	6-2	165	WR	SR
No. 9 Jon Shorter	6-2	205	QB	SR
No. 10 Chad Plumley	5-9	170	QB	SO.
No. 11 Maceo Pemberton	5-7	170	WR	SR
No. 12 Cameron Baxter	5-9	170	RB	JR
No. 14 Matthew Bolton	5-7	135	WR	JR
No. 20 Aaron Wasson	5-10	175	WR	JR
No. 21 Jeremy Offer	5-8	135	WR	SO
No. 22 David Day	5-6	170	RB	JR
No. 26 Justin Herald	5-11	165	WR	SO
No. 28 Michael Seabolt	5-8	140	WR	SO
No. 29 Devin Honaker	5-9	135	WR	SR
No. 32 Jeremy Flanagan	5-7	170	K	SR
No. 43 Randy Sparks	6-1	215	TE	SR
No. 44 Jordan Hutchinson	5-7	155	RB	JR
No. 48 Josh Carlson	5-8	160	RB	JR
No. 50 William Isabelle	6-1	360	OT	SR
No. 51 Isaac Montgomery	6-5	270	OT	SR
No. 52 Eric Cox	5-8	185	G	JR
No. 54 Ronnie Tote	5-8	225	C	JR
No. 56 Thomas Blankenship	5-10	225	G	JR
No. 58 Matthew Belcher	6-2	220	OT	SR
No. 62 Matthew Johnston	5-9	205	G	SO
No. 64 Derek Powell	5-9	205	C	JR
No. 65 Adam Powers	5-8	230	OT	SO
No. 68 Justin Thacker	5-8	225	G	JR
No. 70 Kevin Hall	6-1	245	OT	SO
No. 71 Michael Shaw	6-1	205	C	JR
No. 72 Travis Caldwell	6-2	275	T	JR
No. 74 Jeremy Halsey	5-6	235	OT	SO
No. 75 Jessee Doff	5-7	230	G	SO
No. 77 Jason Saunders	5-9	235	C	JR
No. 78 Russell Lippencott	6-3	285	G	SR
No. 83 Johnathan Daher	5-11	160	TE	JR
No. 84 Jon Meeks	6-2	185	TE	SR
No. 88 Daniel Reed	6-3	185	TE	SO
FRESHMEN	5-6	130	WR	FR
No. 5 Kevin Hamm	5-5	120	RB	FR
No. 9 Daryle Fallings	5-11	170	QB	FR
No. 12 Randy Spangler	5-6	120	WR	FR
No. 18 Garin Grose	5-10	150	RB	FR
No. 22 Adam Sibley	5-6	140	WR	FR
No. 24 Travis Harry	5-8	180	QB	FR
No. 19 Kevin Cocus	6-0	140	RB	FR
No. 40 William Albin	5-5	205	G	FR
No. 50 Craig Day	5-11	175	OT	FR
No. 60 James Tolbert	5-10	190	OT	FR
No. 65 Robert Haynes	5-9	225	OT	FR
No. 67 Jody Dehart	5-9	215	C	FR
No. 74 Lee Thorton	5-10	260	OT	FR
No. 75 David Hercey	5-11	185	TE	FR
No. 78 Brandon Ball	5-9	120	WR	FR
No. 80 Michael Bridges	5-8			
No. 84 Heath Lilly				

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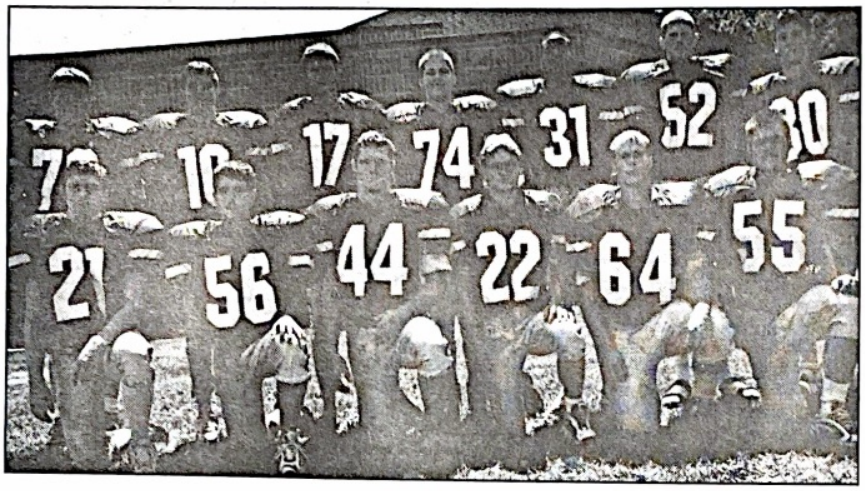
Montcalm High School Generals

Generals return experienced players



The 1999 Montcalm High School Generals

1999 Montcalm Generals Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 31 Bryan Cosby	6-2	185	RB	SR
No. 64 Blair Taylor	5-11	205	T	SR
No. 54 Elijah Carver	5-9	170	G	SR
No. 52 John Gills	6-2	190	T	SR
No. 44 Chris Mounts	5-11	180	FB	JR
No. 17 Jon Neal	6-1	182	QB	JR
No. 22 Beau Riggs	5-8	140	RB	JR
No. 62 Derik Williams	5-8	143	G	JR
No. 55 Weston Gordon	5-10	195	C	JR
No. 84 Jeff Evans	5-8	147	E	JR
No. 56 Kaleb Falin	5-9	152	G	SO
No. 10 Justin Havens	5-10	160	SE	SO
No. 21 John Gullett	5-10	171	TB	SO
No. 70 A.W. Carver	5-9	199	T	SO
No. 86 Kevin Bunch	5-7	130	E	SO
No. 75 Zach Carver	6-2	175	T	SO
No. 54 Brian Meade	5-7	165	T	SO
No. 72 Jeremy Hancock	5-11	200	G	SO
No. 50 Roy Sparks	5-8	185	T	FR
No. 88 Wade Bell	5-9	155	E	FR

By TEDDY PAYNTER
of the Daily Telegraph staff

MONTCALM - The Montcalm football program has made great strides under Coach Keith Pennington's leadership.

The Generals were 0-10 the first two years before finally posting the school's first-ever win two years ago. Montcalm won two games last year.

What does Pennington see in the Generals' future?

"I feel like we've made great strides here.....The first couple of years we had to play against playoff teams and really couldn't compete. Now we feel like we have a schedule we can play against," Pennington said.

Numbers are once again a concern for Pennington. But the Generals return a number of players who have earned their gridiron stripes.

Junior Jon Neal (6-1, 182) will begin his third season at quarterback. He started as a freshman.

"He's played alot at that position for us and we expect him to be a leader for us," Pennington said.

Fullback Chris Mounts (5-11, 180, Jr.) returns as the team's top rusher. He has 1,825 yards rushing for the Generals as a two-year player. He will be joined by sophomore John Gullett (5-10, 171, So.).

"We feel like we have a good group of running backs. The key is we must stay healthy," Pennington said.

Tight end Bryan Cosby (6-2, 185, Sr.) will also see playing time in the backfield along with flanker Beau Riggs (5-8, 140, Jr.).

Justin Havens (5-10, 160, So.) will be at split end for the Generals while Kevin Bunch (5-7, 130, So.) will be at end.

"We need for those guys to step up and make some big players for us," Pennington said.

Along the offensive line, the center Weston Gordon (5-10, 195, Jr.). Sophomore Brian Meade (5-11, 200, So.) will be at guard along with Kaleb Falin (5-9, 152). John Gills (6-2, 190, Sr.), A.W. Carver (5-9, 199, So.) are among the top prospects at tackle.

"We will be playing a number of players up front," Pennington said.

Blair Taylor (5-11, 205, Sr.), Zach Carver (6-2, 175, So.), Jeremy Hancock (5-7, 165) and Roy Sparks (5-8, 185, Fr.) are others to see plenty of playing time at tackle.

Derik Williams (5-8, 143, Jr.) will see playing time at guard along with Elijah Carver (5-9, 170, Sr.). Jeff Evans (5-8, 147, Jr.) and Wade Bell (5-9, 155, Fr.) will play at end.

"We've got to get the most out of our players. We have to stay healthy, like I said before. We can't afford to have players get hurt. If that happens we're going to have a hard time winning games.

"I'm very optimistic about our team. I know we'll go out there and give it our best shot."

Generals schedule

Aug. 28	Marsh Fork
Sept. 4	Roanoke Catholic, Va.
Sept. 10	at Gauley Bridge
Sept. 17	at Craig County, Va.
Sept. 25	Pocahontas, Va.
Oct. 2	Bland County Va.
Oct. 8	at Baileysville
Oct. 15	at Oceana
Oct. 22	Open
Oct. 29	at Iaeger
Nov. 6	Hundred

LOGAN COUNTY

Logan
Class AAA 0-10

Logan has long been a force in basketball and baseball in West Virginia high school sports for a number of years.

Now, Wildcat football Coach George Barker is trying to inch his sport into the Logan spotlight.

Despite playing in the state's highest classification, Logan only had 18 players on the roster last season.

Logan's strength should be in the trenches, where the team returns four linemen who started in 1998.

Leading the way will be senior center Todd Dawson. A pair of guards, Danny Williamson and Chad Clemens, both seniors, will anchor the defensive line.

By Kyle Lovern

Man
Class AA 3-7

Evan Award Carter stepped down in the offseason, the Hillbilles will keep some continuity in their program.

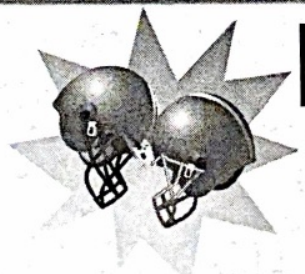
Assistant coach Chuck Poston will take the reins. Poston coached on Carter's staff the last five years and served as defensive coordinator the last two seasons. Poston also played for Carter in the late 1980s.

The Hillbillies return their top running back in senior Kenny Ramsey.

Ramsey ran for nearly 1,000 yards last season for Man. Against Logan, he reorded touchdown runs of 99, 96 and 90 yards as he picked up 296 yards on 12 carries.

Junior Josh Vance will start at quarterback, after starting two games at that position for Man last season.

By Frank Angst



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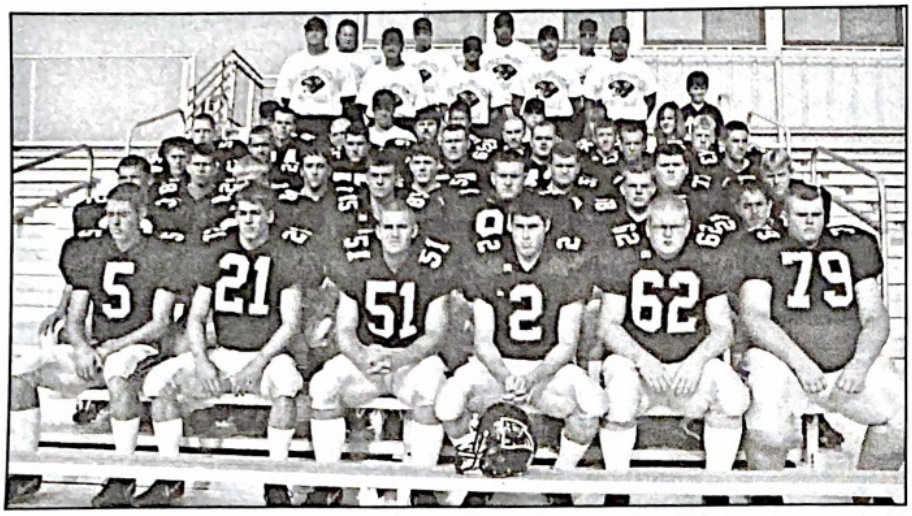
PikeView High School Panthers

An early victory could boost Panthers



The 1999 PikeView High School Panthers

By DOUG STREET
of the *Daily Telegraph* staff

PIKEVIEW — As the old saying goes "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

When it comes to high school football, nowhere is that more true than at PikeView High School. The Panthers are coming off an 0-10 season and new head coach Charles Angell understands the biggest task his team faces is earning that first victory.

"You gotta get that monkey off your back," Angell said. "You gotta win a football game and every time you do that things will get a little bit easier."

Besides a new head coach, there are also other changes taking place for the Panthers in 1999. For starters, PikeView will play at a new football stadium built behind the high school which the team truly can call its own.

More importantly, Angell feels there is a new attitude at PikeView, an attitude he feels can brings a winning spirit back to the program.

"We've got to believe we can go out there and win football game and we're going to go out there and try to win football games," Angell said.

Leading the Panthers in 1999 will be junior quarterback Jed Nolan. Angell is looking for the 6-3, 185-pounder as the focal point of the offense.

"Jed Nolan is probably the best leader we have on the football field," Angell said.

Besides Nolan, junior tight end John Paul Blankenship (6-5, 233) and senior running back Eric Antolini (5-9, 155) will also carry some of the offensive load.

Angell said he has also been impressed with senior center Bubba Ernest (5-10, 245) and senior guard Mike Dye (5-9, 188) to anchor the offensive line. Also seeing playing time on the line will be junior guard Aaron Calfee (6-1, 194), senior tackle Everett Mitchem (5-10, 351) and Nathan Gibson (6-2, 235).

With most of the Panthers' starters playing two ways this season, Angell looks to get quality minutes out of Blankenship also at defensive tackle. The linebacker corps will be led by Calfee and senior Steve Meadows (5-10, 225) with Nolan starting at free safety while Antolini will play one of the cornerback spots.

PikeView is already showing signs of turning over a new leaf with some offensive firepower, at least during practice.

"Usually the defense is ahead of the offense at this point, but right now, I'd say our offense is ahead."

While that may bode well for the Panthers, PikeView still does not have an easy road this season. The home schedule begins with Greenbrier West (Aug. 27). PikeView also have perennial powers Bluefield (Oct. 1), Oak Hill (Oct. 8), Independence (Oct. 22) and James Monroe (Oct. 29) at home.

Yet even with the tough home schedule, Angell feels that playing in their own backyard will only help the Panthers in 1999.

"It's going to be an advantage (to play at the new field). It's their field, they get to play on a brand new field, under the lights.

"It's the first time these kids have ever got to do that and they're going to be fired up."

Panthers schedule

Aug. 27	Greenbrier West
Sept. 3	at Scott
Sept. 10	at Liberty-Raleigh
Sept. 17	at Summers County
Sept. 24	at Shady Spring
Oct. 1	Bluefield
Oct. 8	Oak Hill
Oct. 15	Open
Oct. 22	Independence
Oct. 29	James Monroe
Nov. 5	at Iaeger

1999 PikeView Panthers Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 1 Jessie Lookabill	5-11	165	SE	SO
No. 2 Chad Belcher	6-0	180	SE	SR
No. 5 Jed Nolan	6-3	185	QB	JR
No. 10 Aaron Oxley	6-2	155	TE	JR
No. 12 Alvin Hager	5-10	135	K	JR
No. 13 Josh Reed	5-8	185	RB	SR
No. 15 Keith Dunn	5-8	150	P	JR
No. 21 Eric Antolini	5-9	155	RB	SR
No. 23 Bobby England	5-11	150	QB	JR
No. 28 Nathan Haynes	5-8	167	RB	SO
No. 32 Richard Sizemore	6-0	175	RB	SO
No. 33 Nathan Ray	6-0	161	RB	SR
No. 36 Josh Wilie	5-9	224	RB	SR
No. 40 Steve Meadows	5-10	225	RB	SR
No. 42 John Vaught	5-6	128	RB	SO
No. 44 Mike Meddings	6-0	165	SE	SR
No. 50 Brandon Daniels	5-9	209	T	SO
No. 52 Richard Robbins	5-10	211	T	SO
No. 55 Mike Dye	5-9	188	G	SR
No. 56 Ben Dalton	6-0	160	G	JR
No. 60 Aaron Calfee	6-1	194	T	JR
No. 62 Bubba Ernest	5-10	245	C	JR
No. 64 Roy Turpin	5-8	180	G	JR
No. 65 Lanny Hoosier	5-8	228	T	SR
No. 70 T.J. Bridgeman	5-5	158	G	SO
No. 72 Anthony Joyce	5-7	200	G	JR
No. 77 Gary Davis	6-0	345	T	SO
No. 78 Nathan Gibson	6-2	235	T	SR
No. 79 Everett Mitchem	5-10	351	T	SR
No. 82 J.J. Hooper	5-10	141	E	SR
No. 84 Corey Gum	5-11	140	E	JR
No. 85 Mike Catron	5-11	228	E	SO
No. 99 John Blankenship	6-5	233	E	JR

Gilbert Lions

GILBERT - Gilbert should be a strong contender again this season in Class A.

Joe David Browning (6-2, 220, Sr.) returns at quarterback while the top running back is Daniel Mounts (5-9, 190, Sr.) will lead a potent ground game.

Mounts rushed for 1,250 yards and Browning passed for over 1,100 yards.

Center Thomas Justice (6-0, 195, Sr.) is one of many top returners along the offensive line. Garin Justice (6-6, 270 Jr.) is another.

Coach Gordon Carter begins his 11th season as head coach.

Gilbert will open the season at home on Saturday, Aug. 28th, against Scott of Madison.

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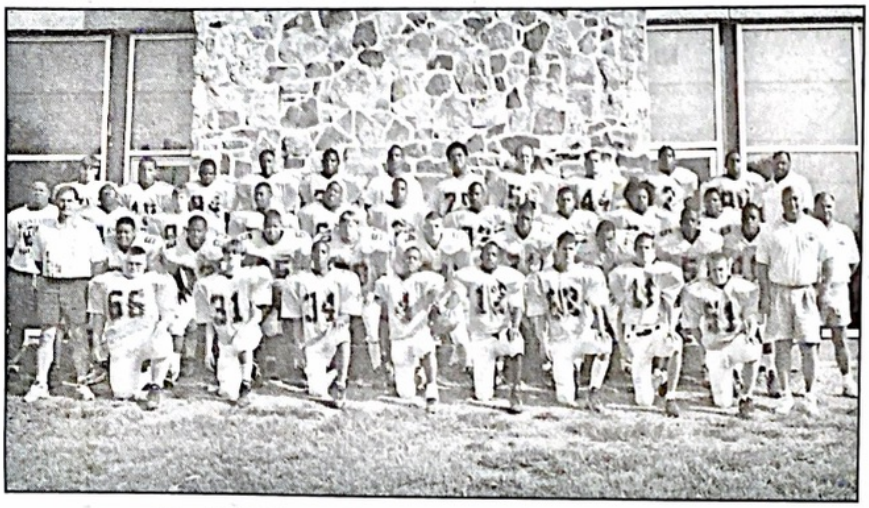
Mount View High School Golden Knights

Expectations high for Golden Knights



The 1999 Mount View High School Golden Knights

By TEDDY PAYNTER
of the Daily Telegraph staff

WELCH - Expectations are very high these days in McDowell County.

Mount View's football team has arrived under fourth-year coach Leon Gravely.

The Golden Knights, who finished up 8-3 last year, losing twice to East Bank, including a second-round playoff game, return a number of top players from that team.

"I was disappointed in the way we finished up the season last year. We are looking forward to the start of this one," Gravely said.

The Golden Knights have size and speed, both will create problems defensively for opponents.

Mount View will open its season on Aug. 27th at War against intra-county rival Big Creek. Then comes four straight home games, including the opener on Sept. 3rd against Man High School. The game was originally scheduled for Sept. 24th but was moved to the second week of the season.

Knights schedule

Aug. 27	at Big Creek
Sept. 3	**Man**
Sept. 10	**Prestonburg, Ky.**
Sept. 17	**Logan**
Sept. 24	Open
Oct. 1	at Woodrow Wilson
Oct. 8	at Bluefield
Oct. 15	**Iaeger**
Oct. 22	at Wyoming East
Oct. 29	at Princeton
Nov. 5	**Graham, Va.**

"We feel like we have a very good schedule and one that will be very competitive," Gravely said.

Senior Michael Ward (5-7, 170) will get the start at quarterback for the Golden Knights. He will guide a very, very talented offense, which includes running backs Kelvin DuBouse (6-3, 268, Jr. and sophomore Bobby Lee (6-1, 218). DuBouse is power back with great speed while Lee has been tabbed already as being maybe one of the best athletes in school history by the time he graduates.

Brandon Hale (5-10, 217, Jr.) will play at wingback along with Lavar Isabelle (5-10, 157, Sr.).

"We have a good mixture of strength and speed in the backfield. We have some players who can make the big plays for us," Gravely said.

Ward will also have the chance to throw the football as well. Lemel Gibson (6-0, 211, Sr.) and Randall Wilkins (5-11, 185, Jr.) will share playing time at tight-end for the Golden Knights. Pat Jones (6-2, 165, So.) and Kris Curtis (6-3, 175, So) will be the split ends. Both are young but very highly thought of by the coaching staff.

The offensive line has experience and good size as well. Sennica Lindsey (5-11, 271, Sr.) will be at one tackle along with William Murrell (5-11, 221, Sr.). Travis McCormick (6-2, 262, Jr.) will start at center while Eugene Lacy (5-7, 283, Jr.) and Mike "Tony" Scott (5-10, 200, Sr.) will start at guards.

Shawn Gregory (6-0, 216, Sr.) saw action last year but was injured. He could play a key factor this season if he's able to stay healthy.

"We have experienced linemen....good skill people and feel like we have the chance to be a very, very good football team," Gravely said.

Other home games for the Golden Knights include Prestonsburg, Ky. (Sept. 10), Logan (Sept. 17), Iaeger (Oct. 8), and Graham, Va. (Nov. 5).

Mount View will play other road games at Beckley (Oct. 1), Bluefield (Oct. 15), Wyoming East (Oct. 22) and Princeton (Oct. 29).

1999 Mt. View Knights Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 1 Brandon Hale	5-10	217	RB	JR
No. 2 Brian Gregory	5-11	216	E	JR
No. 3 Pat Jones	6-2	165	E	SO
No. 4 Derrick Valentine	5-5	151	RB	SR
No. 5 Lavar Isabelle	5-10	157	E	SR
No. 6 Kris Curtis	6-3	175	E	SO
No. 7 Daniel Hale	5-11	166	QB	FR
No. 10 Eric Parker	5-10	163	QB	SO
No. 11 Charles Barker	6-0	161	K	SR
No. 12 Michael Ward	5-7	170	QB	SR
No. 21 Antoine Edwards	6-0	171	RB	SR
No. 31 John Reeves	5-10	153	E	SO
No. 32 Kelvin DuBouse	6-3	268	RB	JR
No. 33 Chris Moore	6-0	201	RB	JR
No. 34 Melvin Rose	5-8	140	RB	FR
No. 40 Charles Williams	6-0	155	RB	FR
No. 41 Brandon Brown	5-6	178	RB	FR
No. 44 Bobby Lee	6-1	218	RB	SO
No. 50 Mike Scott	5-10	200	G	SR
No. 51 Evan Lester	5-5	157	G	FR
No. 54 Tim Taylor	5-9	235	T	JR
No. 56 Eugene Lacy	5-7	283	G	JR
No. 57 Micahel Spriggs	6-2	350	T	SR
No. 58 Travis McCormick	6-4	262	C	JR
No. 60 Clifton McMoore	6-2	280	T	JR
No. 62 William Murrell	6-1	221	T	SR
No. 64 John Johnson	5-11	282	T	SO
No. 65 Brandon Thomas	6-2	265	T	FR
No. 66 Gilbert McCartney	5-10	240	C	SO
No. 67 Sennica Lindsey	5-4	271	T	SR
No. 71 Shawn Gregory	6-1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
No. 75 Joe Martin	6-4	333	T	JR
No. 80 Lemel Gibson	6-4	211	E	SR
No. 82 Adam Toler	6-0	162	E	SO
No. 83 Jason Blair	5-10	175	E	SR
No. 84 Randall Wilkins	5-10	185	E	JR
No. 90 Michael Jefferies	5-9	177	E	FR
No. 97 Michael Bell	5-11	198	E	SO
No. 99 Joe Reeves	5-7	140	E	SO

Best of luck to all area football teams this season

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Big Creek High School Owls

Owls excited about new gridiron year

The 1999 Big Creek High School Owls

By DOUG STREET
of the *Daily Telegraph* staff

WAR — Some exciting things are happening for the Big Creek Owls football team in 1999.

For starters, first-year coach Rhandy Barnett is coming in with a new philosophy of putting in more of an air attack into the offense.

Add to that, 10 starters returning on offense and the Owls may make some noise in the Class A ranks this season.

Leading the way for Big Creek this season will be senior quarterback Jeff Johnson. Barnett said the Owls' two-year starter has grasped the new offense very well and will be looked upon to carry the offensive load.

"Jeff's a good boy," Barnett said. "He's a senior, and he has some good leadership and I think he's going to do some good things for us this season."

Johnson will get a lot of work in an offense that will throw the ball much more than it has in past years.

"We'll throw the ball quite a bit," Barnett said. "Honestly, I'd like a 50-50 percentage. I'd like to throw about 20 times a game and run about 20 times a game."

Taking some of the offensive pressure away from Johnson will be senior halfback Michael Golden (6-1, 235). Besides a talent for carrying the ball, Barnett likes the fact that Golden can carry some would-be tacklers with him as well.

"He has good size," Barnett said of Golden. "He's a leader and I look for a lot of good things from him."

Among the seniors returning are guard Steve Payne (5-11, 177) and fullback Chuckie Phillips (5-9, 191).

Being a Class A school, Barnett understands he does not have much depth to work with as he did during his days as an assistant for Bluefield.

Because of that, many of Barnett's offensive starters such as Steve Payne, Chuckie Phillips and Wes Payne will also make their marks on the defensive side of the ball.

The opening of the season can make or break a team's chances for the playoff run, and Barnett is well aware that the Owls do not have an easy run through the first month of the season. Yet, he feels that if his team can stay solid then the Owls have what it takes to be playing well into November.

"We have a tough schedule, the first four games are our key," Barnett said. "We open up with (Class AA) Mount View (Aug. 27), then we play at Matewan (Sept. 3) whose always tough. After an open date, we have Iaeger at home (Sept. 17) then we're at Wyoming East."

Owls schedule

Aug. 27	Mount View
Sept. 3	at Matewan
Sept. 10	Open
Sept. 17	Iaeger
Sept. 24	at Wyoming East
Oct. 1	at Hurley, Va.
Oct. 8	Whitewood, Va.
Oct. 15	Gauley Bridge
Oct. 22	at Burch
Oct. 29	at Fayetteville
Nov. 5	Gilbert

1999 Big Creek Owls Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 1 Eric Saunders	5-5	135	HB	JR
No. 2 Gary Gilbert	6-3	206	TE	SR
No. 8 Johnny Hankins	5-9	175	QB	JR
No. 10 Matt Horn	5-11	130	QB	JR
No. 11 Lewis Hunley	5-8	135	HB	JR
No. 12 Jeff Johnson	6-1	190	QB	SR
No. 15 Joe Saunders	5-7	164	HB	SO
No. 18 Danny Dawson	6-0	155	FB	SO
No. 20 Harold Mitchell	5-7	122	HB	FR
No. 21 Ivan Scott	5-8	171	HB	SO
No. 22 Michael Dillon	5-9	147	HB	JR
No. 23 Nick Lester	5-10	194	FB	FR
No. 30 Daniel Whitt	5-8	167	HB	JR
No. 31 Derick Kennedy	5-7	152	HB	SR
No. 32 Donnie Collins	5-10	168	HB	JR
No. 33 Chuckie Phillips	5-9	191	FB	SR
No. 40 Daniel Saunders	5-6	140	HB	FR
No. 41 Michael Golden	5-12	218	HB	SR
No. 44 Brian Seabolt	5-9	130	TE	FR
No. 50 Jacob Robbins	5-6	162	G	FR
No. 51 Anthony Johnson	5-11	206	T	SO
No. 52 Charles Wagoner	5-9	170	T	JR
No. 53 Steven Payne	5-12	177	G	SR
No. 58 Robby Williams	5-10	221	C	SR
No. 60 Justin Smith	5-8	142	G	JR
No. 61 Brian Cyphers	5-8	215	C	JR
No. 62 Steven McReynolds	5-6	130	G	FR
No. 65 Matt Wimmer	5-7	173	G	JR
No. 70 Larry Stepp	5-9	230	T	SR
No. 71 Wesley Payne	5-11	210	G	SR
No. 72 Tony Keene	6-1	210	T	SR
No. 73 Raymond Matney	5-7	195	C	FR
No. 74 Jason Lester	5-8	185	T	JR
No. 75 Jacob Hicks	5-11	320	T	JR
No. 77 John Kennedy	5-3	218	T	FR
No. 80 Clint Blankenship	6-1	142	TE	SR
No. 81 Doug Hartman	5-6	140	TE	SO
No. 82 Chris Wagoner	5-11	182	TE	SO
No. 84 Josh Hughes	5-8	164	TE	JR
No. 87 Mark Crabtree	5-10	150	TE	SO

Fayetteville
Class A 12-1

Only one word can describe the Fayetteville Pirates. Huge.

The Pirates enter the season with huge expectations and a huge team, both literally and figuratively.

Fayetteville, which entered last year's playoffs as Class A's top-rated team before losing in the semifinal round, lost just two starters from a team that cruised through the regular season with a 10-0 record.

The Pirate offense will be led by four-year starting quarterback Matt Smith, a 6-foot, 170-pound senior and running back Seth Sedlock (27 TDs in 1998). Running back Justin Shockey will also see considerable action. Leading the Pirate receiving corps will be 6-4, 220-pound junior Matt Conley.

Richwood
Class AA 8-3

Coach Pat Whitlock has one of the greatest challenges in his 19 years as Richwood's coach.

After reaching the playoffs the past two seasons, the Lumberjacks graduated 15 seniors.

"We've got four returning starters," said Whitlock. "So we've got a lot of shoes to fill. I'm pleased with all the kids and their efforts thus far. But we've got a long way to go."

Returning starters include 5-10, 170-pound senior defensive back Nick Amick, 6-1, 160-pound seniro defensive back Bret Louden, 6-1, 270-pound unior tackle Adam young, and 5-7, 155-pound junior nose guard Gabe Haynes.

Players with game experience include 6-1, 165-pound senior tight end John Bayliss, 5-7, 140-pound junior tailback Thomas Caufield, and 5-9, 160-pound junior lineman Marcus Thomas.

"Caulfield started for a while when Adam Hanna was out last year," said Whitlock. "He gained about 700 yards in four-and-a-half games. Thomas spot-played at center and at guard."

Whitlock added, "our kids take some lumps playing out of our class. But maybe we can jump up, win a few games and get in the playoffs again."

By Andy Spradling

Oak Hill
Class AAA 4-6

The Red Devils not only have several holes to fill, they have to fill them quickly.

But finding repacements for all but just five returning starters is just the beginning of Coach Jim Martin's worries. Martin is also concerned abot the Red Devils' first four games that include home games against Beckley and Princeton and road games against James Monroe and Nicholas County.

"We're going to have to get ready fast because our first four games are very tough," said Martin.

"We are a very young team but we have some talented young players."

Senior tailback James Whitmore (400 yards), the team's top returning rusher, along with sophomores Chris Nelson and Lamont Dearing will man the tailback position vacated by William Jackson.

Whitmore, the team's leading tackler in 1998, will also anchor the defense from his linebacker position.

Adam Bowling, a 5-8, 150-pound junior and 6-2, 170-pound Nathan Fell will battle for the starting quarterback position. Bowling, last season's backup QB and top receiver, is the early front-runner to take over the job.

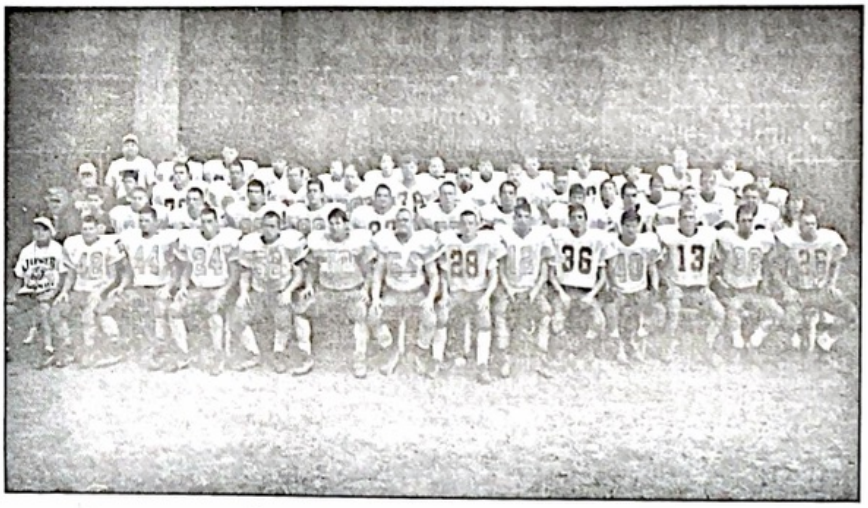
Leading the receiving corps will be 5-7, 145-pound sophomore Cam Woodson and either Fell or Bowling.

The Red Devils' top two linemen are junior Jason McGuire and junior James Weatherby.

By Michael Dailey

Iaeger High School Cubs

Cubs look to regain playoff form in '99



The 1999 Iaeger High School Cubs

By TEDDY PAYNTER
of the Daily Telegraph staff

IAEGER - After making the Class AA playoffs six straight years, veteran coach Mitch Estep has watched his team miss out on the post-season party the past two season.

It's something that Estep and his players are not custom to when it comes to football.

"I was pleased with our effort last year," Estep said of his club's 6-4 finish in a rebuilding year.

The Cubs are still young, but a number of top returners should make them a very competitive team in Class AA.

Iaeger returns a number of offensive starters, including quarterback Perry Christian (6-0, 160, Jr.). He will be joined by running back Jonathan Bryant (5-10, 190, Sr.). Both were key figures in the Cubs' success last year. Bryant rushed for nearly 1,500 yards .

"We expect big things out of both of those guys," Estep said. "They are both offensive threats anytime we have the football."

Cubs schedule

Aug. 27	Wyoming East
Sept. 3	Burch
Sept. 10	at Baileysville
Sept. 17	at Big Creek
Sept. 24	Open
Oct. 1	at Oceana
Oct. 8	at Mount View
Oct. 15	at Gilbert
Oct. 22	Scott
Oct. 29	Montcalm
Nov. 5	PikeView

Estep is also happy to have George Pruitt (6-2 235, Sr.) returning to anchor the offensive line. He is joined by Doug Coleman (5-9, 170, Sr.), along with Quentin Justice (6-6, 310, Jr.). All three are being counted on heavily.

"Those guys must get the job done for us up front," Estep said. "They have good size and experience."

Back to spearhead the defensive charge are Robbie Davis (6-3, 185, Sr.) and Barry McClanahan (6-3, 170, Sr.), both at defensive end.

Estep said a number of other players to watch for include linebacker Johnny Collins (6-3, 200, Sr.), offensive end Nick Baker (6-5, 230, Sr.), running back Eddie Bailey (5-11, 200, So.) and Ryan Bailey [illegible]

"We have a number of players who must step up and play well for us to be successful this season. We have a number of seniors and juniors on this team, so we have some kids who have played for awhile," Estep said.

Iaeger will open the season with back-to-back home games. The Cubs will host Wyoming East on Friday, Aug. 27, and then welcome Burch to town on Sept. 3rd.

Other home games will include dates with Scott of Madison (Oct. 22), Montcalm (Oct. 29), and PikeView (NOv. 5).

Road dates are with Baileysville (Sept. 10), Big Creek (Sept. 17), Oceana (Oct. 1), Mount View (Oct. 8), and Gilbert (Oct. 15).

"We have a number of good football teams on our schedule. It's going to be a real challenge for our team to compete against a number of those teams, but we are very optimistic and ready to play" Estep concluded.

1999 Iaeger Cubs Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 12 Jeremy Auville	6-1	143	RB	SR
No. 64 Nick Baker	6-5	230	T	SR
No. 26 Jonathan Bryant	5-10	190	RB	SR
No. 54 James Cipriani	6-1	230	T	SR
No. 55 Johnny Collins	6-3	200	C	SR
No. 82 Robbie Davis	6-3	185	E	SR
No. 21 Jesse Dawson	5-11	170	RB	SR
No. 36 Dustin England	5-9	160	E	SR
No. 10 Justin England	5-9	150	E	SR
No. 60 Greg Hunt	5-8	200	E	SR
No. 24 Jason Johnson	6-0	184	DE	SR
No. 25 Greg Justice	5-9	170	FB	SR
No. 33 Syn McBryde	5-10	190	G	SR
No. 44 Barry McClanahan	6-3	170	TE	SR
No. 57 David Muncy	5-6	180	G	SR
No. 70 George Pruitt	6-2	235	T	SR
No. 75 Danny Rife	5-10	230	C	SR
No. 31 Scottie Smith	5-8	183	G	SR
No. 42 Nick Addair	5-7	145	DB	JR
No. 77 Braxton Blair	5-8	216	NG	JR
No. 13 Perry Christian	6-0	160	QB	JR
No. 40 Doug Coleman	5-9	170	C	JR
No. 62 Josh Fuller	5-10	220	C	JR
No. 22 Derick Goodman	5-11	150	E	JR
No. 79 Quintin Justice	6-6	310	T	JR
No. 14 Jason Riggs	6-0	150	E	JR
No. 32 Don Stacey	5-11	165	RB	JR
No. 34 Eddie Bailey	5-11	200	RB	SO
No. 11 Ryan Bailey	5-11	175	E	SO
No. 52 Jason Bowles	5-10	220	T	SO
No. 74 John Payne	[illegible]	[illegible]	OB	SO
No. 84 Nathan Allen	6-0	150	E	FR
No. 86 Pat Bachelor	5-7	145	RB	FR
No. 34 Rocky Ball	5-4	135	RB	FR
No. 61 Brandon Bishop	5-1	120	T	FR
No. 23 Curtis Carter	5-1	125	RB	FR
No. 83 Justin Cline	5-6	120	C	FR
No. 71 Teddy Hagerman	5-6	140	RB	FR
No. 63 Brenton Helmandollar	5-7	100	G	FR
No. 65 Anthony Lester	5-10	180	G	FR
No. 84 Josh Maxwell	5-1	120	E	FR
No. 14 Donnie McClanahan	5-10	150	QB	FR
No. 82 Kendall Morgan	5-8	140	E	FR
No. 20 Nathan Newberry	5-4	140	RB	FR
No. 75 Jeremy Powell	5-2	125	E	FR
No. 53 Brady Stacy	5-1	165	C	FR
No. 89 Billy Vance	5-4	130	RB	FR

Chapmanville Class AA 5-5

After coaching the Champmanville junior high and middle school football teams for 20 years, Ronnie Ooten takes over the high school program this season.

Ooten will depend on 6-1, 240-pound senior lineman Benny Jude to lead his squad. Another senior lineman, John Lucas, will play alongside Jude.

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Tazewell High School Bulldogs

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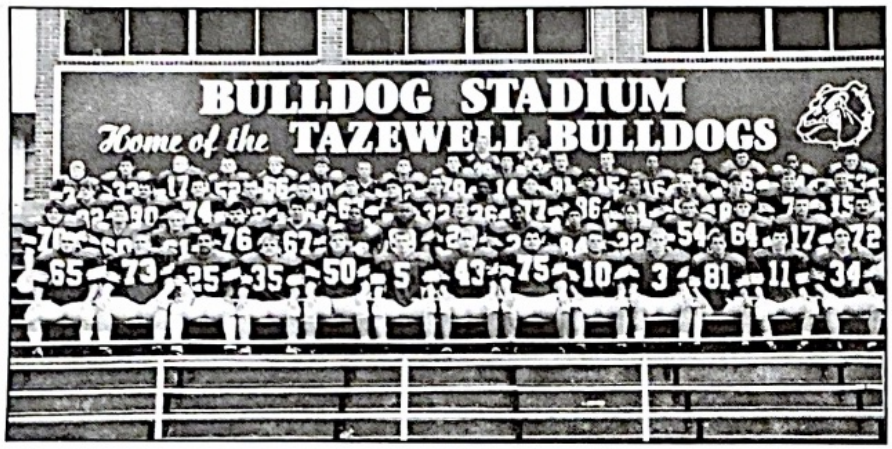

The 1999 Tazewell High School Bulldogs

By LARRY HYPES
of the *Daily Telegraph* staff

TAZEWELL, VA. – Nobody at the Dog House is thinking about winning and losing. This season, Tazewell's troops are simply going to concentrate on football. A solid nucleus of veterans leads a more physical squad into battle for the 1999 Southwest District season.

Strong-armed quarterback Drew Barrett directs offensive traffic from a Pro-I set. Barrett (sr.-180) had nine TD tosses a year ago on 41 completions with 588 passing yards.

Harris Hart opens his third campaign as Dog boss with momentum to build on. Three victories at the end of '98 pushed THS to a 5-5 record and nearly into the playoffs. As it was, the 'Dogs broke a four-year district losing streak by beating Carroll Co. and Grundy.

"Our expectations are up," says the low-key coach. "We had a good season in the weight room and the fellows have worked hard. Having some success last year has given the players a more upbeat feeling and we're just looking forward to being competitive against some very good teams."

Bulldogs schedule

Aug. 27	Richlands
Sept. 3	Lebanon
Sept. 10	at Abingdon
Sept. 17	George Wythe
Sept. 24	at Radford
Oct. 1	at Carroll County
Oct. 8	Open
Oct. 15	Graham
Oct. 22	Marion
Oct. 29	at Grundy
Nov. 5	at Virginia High

Richlands will be the first on the list Aug. 27 with Lebanon next. Both are experienced playoff teams, with talented George Wythe, Radford, and Carroll Co., among others, also on the schedule. Powerful Graham, Region IV champs a year ago, will send 2,000-yard rusher Leonard Graves against THS in the season's seventh week.

Barrett himself will be handing off to hard-hitting tailback Brandon VIney (sr.-180) or speedy Jessie McDonald (jr.-160) with bruising Zane Angle (jr.-220) at fullback, along with Marshall Taylor (jr.-160). Stuart Angles (jr.-190) is tall, strong, and agile at receiver with steady Rals Abrahams (jr.-145) and Seth Hambrick (sr.-170) also split wide. Sure-handed Joe Mabry (sr.-185) is the tight end with help from Ross Matney (sr.-180).

Hart is comfortable with the depth at quarterback, and expects Josh Thompson (soph.-200), along with Angles, to be able to pull the offensive trigger.

Clearing the way will be center Jeff Call (sr.-200), guards Rob Hunter (jr.-215) and D.J. Dillon (jr.-250), tackles Jason Hale (jr.-260) and Jacob Vance (sr.-240) in a THS line as quick and physical as the Dogs have had in several seasons. Barry Boothe (sr.-290) started every game last year and can fill in at any position.

"We have some experience on the line," notes Hart, adding, "because all those fellows played a year ago. They are stronger and

See Tazewell, Page 31

1999 Tazewell Bulldogs Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 2 Stuart Angels, III	6-3	195		JR
No. 3 Joe Mabry	6-1	187		SR
No. 5 Ryan Sparks	5-9	161		SR
No. 7 Jake Graham	5-11	157		SO
No. 8 Eric Sheppard	5-9	131		SR
No. 10 Drew Barrett	5-11	173		SR
No. 11 Leigh McGrady	5-11	151		SR
No. 12 Earnie Yost, III	5-6	141		FR
No. 14 Carr Blankenship, III	5-5	129		FR
No. 15 Josh Thompson	5-11	208		SO
No. 16 Brandon Sheets	5-7	131		FR
No. 17 Raynor Peters	5-4	115		FR
No. 18 Cody Ross	5-10	168		FR
No. 20 Joe Mason	6-0	159		SO
No. 21 Will Abrahams	5-4	117		FR
No. 22 Rals Abrahams	5-6	138		JR
No. 24 Chase Buchanan	5-5	153		SO
No. 25 Brandon Viney	5-10	178		SR
No. 26. J.D. Harris	5-3	123		FR
No. 28 Zane Angle	5-11	217		JR
No. 30 Josh Carter	5-8	184		SO
No. 31 Marshall Taylor	5-8	157		JR
No. 33 Roger White	5-5	139		FR
No. 35 Jared Pennington	5-11	172		SR
No. 36 Antwyon Clements	5-7	181		SR
No. 41 Josh Hieatt	5-8	179		FR
No. 42 Jessie McDonald	5-11	156		JR
No. 43 Ross Matney	6-1	179		SR
No. 45 John Smith	5-9	148		FR
No. 50 Jeffery Call	5-11	203		SR
No. 51 Raynor Peters	5-5	185		FR
No. 52 Nathan Glover	5-7	191		FR
No. 54 Rob Hunter, Jr.	5-10	224		JR
No. 55 Joe Beasley	5-9	163		SO
No. 56 Leslie Brown	5-4	156		SO
No. 60 Josh Powell	6-1	274		SO
No. 61 J.D. Earnest	5-4	199		SO
No. 62 James White	5-9	194		JR
No. 63 Matt Ray	5-10	181		SO
No. 64 Brett St. Peter	6-2	195		JR
No. 65 Kevin Lambert	5-7	158		FR
No. 66 Adam Street	5-9	174		FR
No. 67 Wes Beavers	6-1	212		JR
No. 68 Ryan Hankins	5-7	159		SO
No. 70 Adam Evans	6-0	287		FR
No. 72 D.J. Dillon	6-2	255		JR
No. 73 Jacob Vance	6-2	237		SR
No. 74 Josh Cole	5-6	160		SO
No. 75 Barry Boothe	6-0	300		SR
No. 76 Jason Hale	5-11	263		JR
No. 77 Jeremy Hall	6-1	282		SO
No. 78 Jarrell Cox	6-3	334		SR
No. 79 Freddie Sparks	5-9	222		FR
No. 80 Jason Lambert	5-8	168		SO
No. 82 Will Nikkel	5-6	151		FR
No. 83 Jermaine Davis	6-2	201		JR
No. 84 Seth Henshaw	5-8	142		JR
No. 85 Brandon Honaker	5-0	140		FR
No. 86 Craig Beavers	6-3	176		SO
No. 88 Justin Hill	5-9	166		SO
No. 89 Aaron Powell	6-5	213		JR

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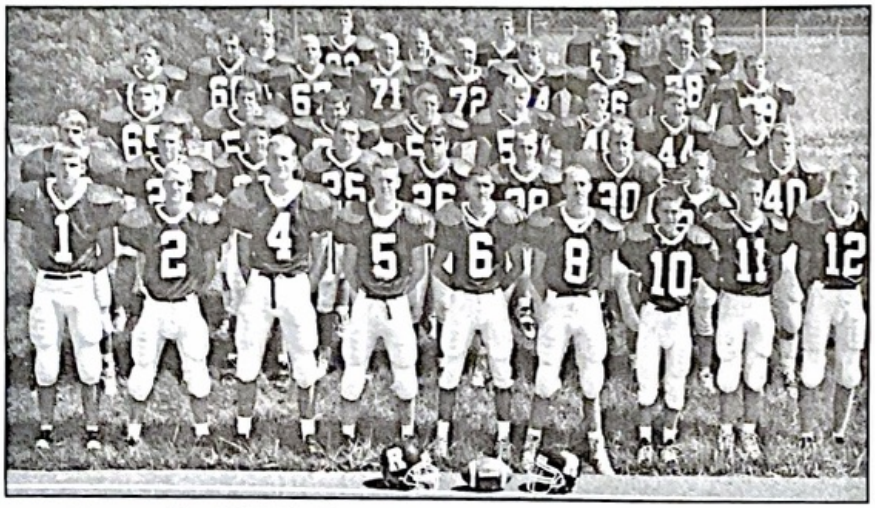
Richlands High School Blue Tornadoes

Young Blues will be 'a real challenge'



The 1999 Richlands High School Blue Tornadoes

By LLOYD COMBS
for the Daily Telegraph

RICHLANDS, Va. - The Blues will be green, but that doesn't mean they aren't capable of making opponents see red.

The defending Southwest District champion Blue Tornado return just five starters, but they can rightfully hope for a bit of a carryover effect from a banner 9-3 season in 1999.

"We hope if we've got the program going in the right direction," Richlands coach Greg Mance said, "there will be some spillover from last year. Hopefully we can play well early and gain some confidence."

The only experienced area offensively for the Blues is the line.

All-SWD lineman John Yost (6-2, 255, Sr.) will anchor the Richlands interior on both sides of the ball and he's a good one.

Yost starts at guard and he'll be joined by returnee Matt McGlothlin (6-1, 235, Jr.) at center. T.J. Wood (6-1, 235, So.) holds down the other guard spot. The tackles will be Jared Hom (6-5, 285, Jr.) and Jeff Patton (6-2, 240, Sr.).

Blues schedule

Aug. 27	at Tazewell
Sept. 3	at Lee High
Sept. 10	**Powell Valley**
Sept. 17	at Virginia High
Sept. 24	**Graham**
Oct. 1	**Grundy**
Oct. 8	at Clintwood
Oct. 15	at Princeton
Oct. 22	Open
Oct. 29	**Bluefield**
Nov. 5	**Carroll County**

"The offensive line will be our strength (offensively)," Mance said. "From tackle to tackle we average probably 250 pounds. John Yost is a good football player, he's a leader on both sides of the ball. He's one of our captains."

Yost and company will have a new group of skill people to block for, and it will take a group effort to "You can't replace someone as good as Davis," Mance said. "But we're excited about both Michael Mabe and Travis Brown. They've both improved their ballhandling skills, they cut well and see the field real well."

Mabe (6-3, 190) and Brown (5-10, 180) are both Juniors, as is new quarterback Brandon Bales, a solid athlete who also starts at free safety for the Blues.Bales' wide outs will be Shannon Fuller (5-10, 160, Jr.) and Travis Wilson (5-10, 160, So.), a duo that will alternate with Dennis Carr (5-11, 175, Sr. and Josh Keene (5-9, 150, So.). Justin Reynolds (6-1, 180, Sr.) and Andy Walker (6-2, 1 80, Jr.) will see tight end duty.

Mance is counting on Bales' leadership skills as this new offensive unit learns the ropes together.

"Brandon is another one of our captains," Mance said. "He's a tremendous football player. He did an excellent job at outside linebacker and free safety for us last year.

"Brandon reads the option real well, he's a good leader. His teammates have a lot of confidence in him."

The only defensive starter back besides Bales and Yost is inside linebacker Charles Hale (6-1, 185, Sr.).

Up front, Yost and Horn are the tackles, with Matt McGlothlin at the nose. David Baldwin (6-3, 250, So.) will be at one end, with either Wood, Walker, or E.W. Griffith (5-10, 185 So.) at the other.

Reynolds and Dale Francis (6-0, 185 Sr.) will start at outside linebacker, with Mabe and Fuller on the corners, joining Bales in the Richlands secondary.

A good start is always crucial to an inexperienced team, but the always tough Blues sched-

See Richlands, Page 31

1999 Richlands Blues Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 1 Justin Reynolds	6-1	180	TE	SR
No. 2 Steven Brown	5-9	140	SE	SR
No. 4 Michael Mabe	6-3	190	RB	JR
No. 5 Brandon Bales	5-11	170	QB	JR
No. 6 Shannon Fuller	5-10	160	SE	JR
No. 8 Jimmy Fuller	6-0	160	QB	SR
No. 10 Austin Keene	5-9	150	QB	SO
No. 11 Josh Keene	5-5	120	QB	FR
No. 12 B.J. Jones	5-10	150	QB	SO
No. 20 Dale Francis	6-0	185	RB	SR
No. 21 Dustin Hamoy	5-9	145	SE	JR
No. 22 Jeremy Matney	5-8	145	RB	FR
No. 25 Josh Hammond	5-10	160	RB	JR
No. 26 Travis Brown	5-10	180	RB	JR
No. 28 Travis Wilson	5-10	160	SE	SO
No. 29 Jeremy Waldron	6-0	175	TE	SO
No. 30 Charles Hale	6-1	185	RB	SR
No. 34 Corry Keene	5-5	125	SE	FR
No. 40 Wes Brown	6-0	180	RB	JR
No. 41 Travis Newberry	5-10	185	RB	SO
No. 44 Jack Addington	6-0	170	K	SO
No. 45 Daniel Arms	6-1	200	RB	SO
No. 46 Daniel Curry	5-10	165	TE	JR
No. 52 Matt Monk	6-1	235	G	SO
No. 54 Brandon Cole	5-10	185	G	SO
No. 55 Freddie Elswick	5-10	225	C	FR
No. 56 Matthew Shannon	5-11	185	G	JR
No. 57 Chris Edwards	5-10	225	G	JR
No. 58 Richard Byrd	5-10	250	T	SO
No. 62 Richard Boyd	5-11	250	[illegible]	SO
No. 66 Jeff Patton	6-2	240	T	SR
No. 67 John Yost	6-2	255	G	SR
No. 71 Matt McGlothlin	6-1	235	C	JR
No. 72 Kevin McGlothlin	5-10	225	G	FR
No. 74 T.J. Woods	6-1	235	G	SO
No. 76 D.J. Stilwell	6-3	255	G	JR
No. 78 Jared Horn	6-5	285	T	JR
No. 80 Larry Looney	5-9	135	RB	JR
No. 82 Andy Walker	6-2	180	TE	JR
No. 85 Earl Griffith	5-10	185	RB	SO
No. 87 Dennis Carr	5-11	175	SE	SR
No. 88 David Baldwin	6-3	240	TE	SO
No. 89 Travis Hagerman	5-1	160	SE	JR

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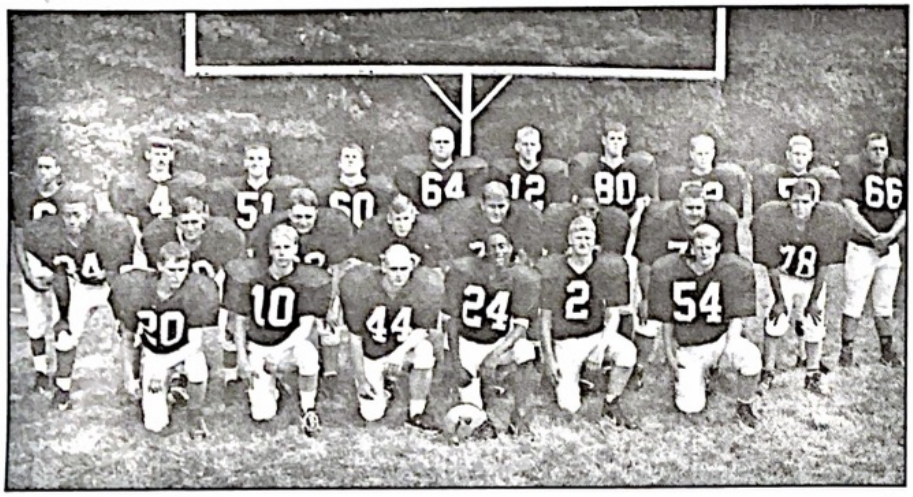
Pocahontas High School Indians

Indians offer up 'triple threat' in '99



The 1999 Pocahontas High School Indians

1999 Pocahontas Indians Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 2 Aaron Thompson	5-8	145	QB	SR
No. 4 Charlie Harris	6-0	150	E	SR
No. 6 Julian Collins	5-8	130	B	FR
No. 10 Dustin Thompson	5-6	145	QB	SO
No. 12 Chris McCroskey	6-1	170	QB	JR
No. 14 Shane Agee	5-9	135	E	SR
No. 20 Shawn Miller	5-8	140	B	SO
No. 22 Brandon Davis	5-10	135	E	JR
No. 24 Tony Collins	5-6	130	B	JR
No. 34 Chris Jackson	5-10	170	B	SR
No. 40 Michael Murphy	6-0	150	E	SR
No. 44 Derrick Phillips	5-7	165	B	SR
No. 51 Michael Lane	5-10	200	G	FR
No. 52 Sammy Stepp	6-1	240	C	JR
No. 54 Ben Gibson	5-7	175	T	JR
No. 58 Adam Cannoy	5-11	210	G	JR
No. 60 Chad Wills	5-11	185	G	JR
No. 62 John Woods	5-8	160	G	SO
No. 64 Zach Nunley	6-1	280	T	SO
No. 66 Jamie Nunley	6-0	235	T	SR
No. 68 Roy Perry	6-0	185	T	SR
No. 70 John Ealy	5-11	275	T	SO
No. 76 David Simons	5-11	300	T	SR
No. 80 Justin Dickens	6-3	200	E	JR
No. 82 Antwain Jackson	5-11	150	E	SO

By DOUG STREET
of the *Daily Telegraph* staff

POCAHONTAS, VA. — There are some teams who are privileged to have one solid offensive weapon with which to build their offense around.

But any team playing the 1999 version of the Pocahontas Indians will have to worry about not just one player to concentrate on, but an offensive triple threat that may cause problems to opposing defenses in the coming season.

The Indians enter this season with not only talent in the offensive backfield, but experience. A combination that makes Pocahontas head coach smile at the possibilities.

"We knew we had that coming into this year," Wyatt said of his offensive trio of senior quarterback Aaron Thompson and running backs senior Chris Jackson and junior Tony Collins.

"Aaron played in the backfield a little bit last year and we knew Tony and Chris played there and they will bring experience and they know what we want out of them."

What Wyatt and the rest of the Indians are especially counting on is the leadership of Thompson (5-8, 145 pounds). Thompson has played on the varsity squad for three years and Wyatt realizes he needs Thompson to perform at a high level if his Indians are to make a playoff run.

"Anytime you take a kid like Aaron Thompson, who has basically played for us four years, a kid who started six or seven games his freshman year, he's obviously the key.

"He's been our starter ever since and it's going to make a difference in any football team when you can put that general out there."

Other players looking to make strong contributions offensively include senior wide receivers Charlie Harris (6-0, 150) and Shane Agee (5-9, 135). Junior wideouts Justin Dickens (6-3, 200) and Brandon Davis (5-10, 135) will also see action along with fullback Derrick Phillips (5-7, 165).

The offensive line has three seniors, including center Jamie Nunley (6-0, 235), and senior tackles Roy Perry (6-0, 185) and David Simons (5-11, 300). Other promising lineman include sophomore John Ealy (5-11, 275) guards Adam Cannoy (5-11, 210) and Chad Wills (5-11, 185) along with sophomore tackle Zach Nunley (6-1, 280).

Defensively, Wyatt has major holes to fill in the graduations of All-District linebacker Johnny Dillon and linebacker Matt Stith, who Wyatt said should have been an All-District selection. Yet, Wyatt sees some promising players to feel the void at the linebacker position.

"We need good linebacker play and I've been real impressed with Chad Wills. We've got to find one more to solidify our defense. If Jamie Nunley and Justin Dickens do their jobs that will really help the linebackers."

Going away from the trend the past couple of years, the Indians will not start the season until Sept. 3 against Shawsville, taking their open date the first week of the season. Wyatt said not having the open date in the middle of the year may actually keep his team mentally alert throughout the season.

"We spent three years in a row having our open date right in the middle of the season and it seemed as if we've always been able to get out of the gate good then after that open date, we mellowed out.

"So we changed it around. We took the open date early and we'll play 10 straight and hopefully we'll get the momentum going and keep it going."

Indians schedule

Sept. 3	**Shawsville**
Sept. 10	at Bland County
Sept. 17	**Fort Chiswell**
Sept. 25	at Montcalm
Oct. 1	at Craig County
Oct. 8	at Northwood
Oct. 15	***Grayson County***
Oct. 22	**Narrows**
Oct. 29	**Chilhowie**
Nov. 5	at Galax

Marsh Fork Bulldogs

MARSH FORK - *A new quarterback will lead the Bulldogs into the 1999 season.*

Marsh Fork, which finished just 2-8 one year ago, returns seven starters.

Returning are backs Clyde McKnight (5-10, 160, Sr.) and Tony Williams, (5-10, 205, Sr.).

McKnight rushed for over 1,500 yards last year.

The quarterback position will be filled by either Brian Jarrell (5-10, 160, So.) or Dennis Pettry (5-11, 175, Sr.).

The Bulldogs open on Saturday, Aug. 28th, at Montcalm. Oceana will be the first home game on Sept. 3. Others are Hannan (Sept. 17), Liberty(R) (Sept. 24), Van (Oct. 8), Bailesyville (Oct. 15), and Mount Hope (Oct. 22).

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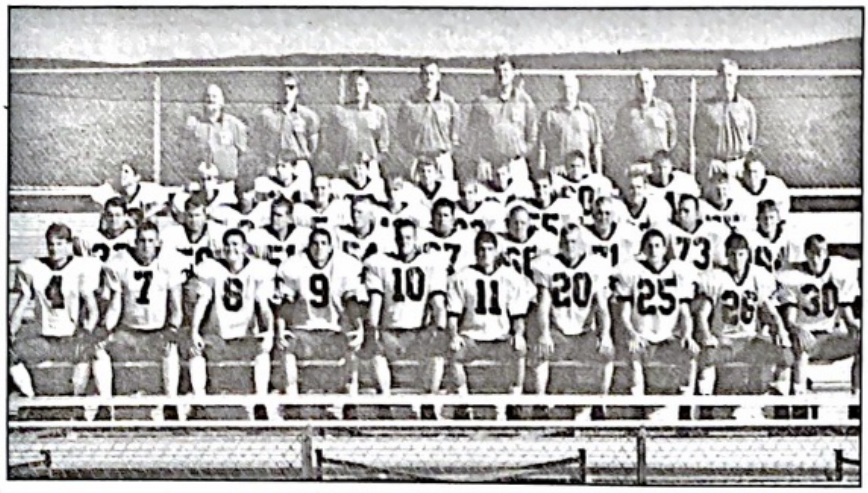
James Monroe High School Mavericks

Mavericks set goals high again in '99



The 1999 James Monroe High School Mavericks

By TEDDY PAYNTER
of the Daily Telegrah staff

LINDSIDE - Veteran coach Don Jackson is no stranger to success on the high school gridiron.

James Monroe returns a number of top players from last year's 12-1 team which lost to DuPont in the Class AA semifinals.

"The biggest positive for us right now is we have a number of three-year players on this team," Jackson said.

The big concern for the Mavericks in the early going will be its defense. Jackson says his offense is clearly ahead of the defense at this stage.

"Our defense has got me worried some right now. Our depth is another concern heading into the season," Jackson said.

A number of players go both ways for the Mavericks. Jackson is also faced with trying to replace four quality athletes lost by graduation. Quarterback Matt Ballengee, tailback Paul King, and linemen Josh Bradley and Josh Walker are gone.

Mavs schedule

Aug. 27	Open
Sept. 3	at Pocahontas County
Sept. 10	**Oak Hill**
Sept. 17	at Greenbrier East
Sept. 24	**Summers County**
Oct. 1	**Midland Trail**
Oct. 8	Open
Oct. 15	at Greenbrier West
Oct. 22	**Princeton**
Oct. 29	at PikeView
Nov. 5	**Richwood**

"We have two kids right now working to gain the starting quarterback position. That's a good thing I guess," Jackson said.

They are Field Terry (6-0, 186, Jr.) and Matt Dixon (5-8, 155, Sr.). Both have impressed the coach.

The top running back is Ben Thornton (6-0, 212, Sr.), who helped lead the Mavericks into the playoffs one year ago.

"He (Thornton) is a solid back. He's picked up some speed, and our other backs are quality players too,' Jackson said.

Jason Dowdy (5-7, 154, Sr.) and Chris Page (5-9, 196, Sr.) will share time at the other halfback position, opposite Thornton in the split backfield.

Jackson is also pleased with his ends.

"We are solid there," he said. Indeed the Mavericks are with Nathan Craft (6-1, 180, Sr.) at split end while Cory Jackson (5-9, 155, So.) will be at flanker and rugged Dusty Raines (6-3, 218, Sr.) at tight end. Josh Moody (5-11, 156, Sr.) is another solid player at wingback. Brandon Lambert (5-10, 165, So.) will get plenty of playing time in the backfield as well.

The offensive line will be impressive as well with the return of Sam Brown (6-5, 275, Sr.) at center. Nathan Carter (6-0, 182, Sr.) and Chris Morgan (6-2, 259, Sr.) will start at tackles. Bret Thomas (5-11, 172, Sr.) and Jason Goodman (5-11, 194, Sr.) will go at guards.

Jared Copeland (5-10, 199, Sr.) and Jason Bradley (5-11, 236, Jr.) will see plenty of playing time along the line as well.

"Like I said...depth is a concern, but I feel like we have some very good players on this team. These kids are winners...they've won a lot of games," Jackson said.

James Monroe will open its season on Sept. 3rd at Pocahontas County against the Warriors. The first home game is set for Sept. 10 against Oak Hill, followed by a tough road encounter at Greenbrier East.

"We get two triple-a teams early in the season. That's going to be a big challenge for us," Jackson said.

Other home games include Summers County (Sept. 24), Midland Trail (Oct. 1), Princeton (Oct. 22), and Richwood (Nov. 5).

Other road games are against Greenbrier West (Oct. 15), and PikeView (Oct. 29).

"Our goal is to make the playoffs...That's what you work for as a team," Jackson concluded.

1999 J. Monroe Mavericks Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 2 Josh Smearmen	5-8	151	B	JR
No. 4 Josh Moody	5-11	156	B	SR
No. 5 Field Terry	6-0	186	B	JR
No. 7 Dusty Raines	6-3	218	E	SR
No. 8 Josh Francis	6-1	154	E	SR
No. 9 Nathan Craft	6-1	180	E	SR
No. 10 Brian Frazier	6-0	155	E	SR
No. 11 Matt Dixon	5-8	155	B	SR
No. 12 Jeremiah Tuggle	5-11	141	B	JR
No. 13 Cory Jackson	5-9	155	B	SO
No. 20 Ben Thornton	6-0	212	B	SR
No. 21 Neil Daniels	5-9	135	B	SO
No. 22 Eric South	5-11	162	B	JR
No. 24 Brandon Lambert	5-10	165	B	SO
No. 25 Joe Dowdy	5-8	146	B	SR
No. 26 Jason Dowdy	5-7	154	B	SR
No. 28 Sean Hinkle	5-8	136	B	SO
No. 32 Chris Page	5-9	196	B	SR
No. 33 Cy Williams	6-1	146	E	SO
No. 34 Nathan Harvey	5-8	166	B	SO
No. 40 Mark Jones	5-6	132	B	SR
No. 50 Nathan Carter	6-0	182	L	SR
No. 51 Bret Thomas	5-11	172	L	SR
No. 54 Jason Goodman	5-11	194	L	SR
No. 55 Ash Guy	6-2	178	L	JR
No. 58 Heath Walker	6-3	260	L	JR
No. 60 Robert Parker	6-0	169	L	SO
No. 64 Dwight Huffman	6-0	169	L	SO
No. 66 Tommy Knapp	6-2	197	L	SO
No. 67 Jared Copeland	5-10	199	L	SR
No. 68 Jimmy Daniels	5-9	180	L	SR
No. 73 Sam Brown	6-5	275	L	SR
No. 75 Jason Bradley	5-11	236	L	JR
No. 76 Kenny Mann	6-3	193	L	SR
No. 84 Chris Eggleston	5-8	140	L	SR

Pocahontas Warriors

DUNMORE - The Pocahontas County Warriors have lost 20 straight games.

Clayton Seldomridge (5-8, 160, Sr.) rushed for over 900 yards last year.

Clint Johnson (5-10, 165, Sr.) and Brad Sewell (5-9, 170, Sr.) will battle for the starting quarterbck position.

The Warriors open up at Bath County, Va. on Aug. 27th.

WVU football

Terry excited about new season for Mounties

By MICKEY FURFARI
for the *Daily Telegraph*

MORGANTOWN — "I can't wait until the season starts," Nate Terry said.

That's understandable.

The 6-3, 185-pound senior cornerback missed nearly all of the 1998 campaign with a dislocated clavicle. The injury came against Maryland in the second game.

"It was real tough having to sit out nearly the whole year," said Terry, who also returns punts and kicks. "First time in my career I've had a crippling injury.

"But the clavicle has healed 100 percent. And I'm ready to play football again. I just had to be patient and get used to sitting out."

Terry has appeared in 14 games, all as a starter, since transferring from Merced Junior College.

He has 56 tackles, including two quarterback sacks, and four interceptions and 12 pass deflections.

As a return man, Terry is averaging 24.5 yards for 37 kickoffs and 11.1 for 37 punts.

"I definitely want to run back punts and kicks again," he said. "And I also love playing defense. I can hardly wait to get at it."

He admittedly loves the excitement of making a great play on defense or running back a punt or kick a long distance.

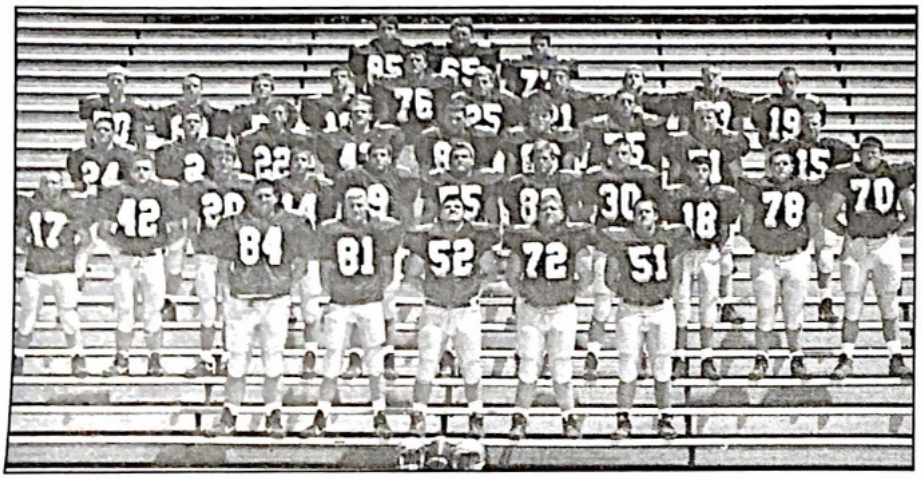
Terry can't petition the NCAA for an extra year of eligibility. That doesn't bother him, though.

"Hopefully, it will be the NFL after this year. I definitely want to go to the next level."

"I'm ready to get back to playing."

Grundy High School Golden Wave

Fast start key for young Grundy team



The 1999 Grundy High School Golden Wave

By LLOYD COMBS
for the *Daily Telegraph*

GRUNDY, Va. - When its powerful wrestling squad had a string of 12 consecutive state titles snapped last season, its wasn't the only *impressive streak to come to an end at Grundy.*

Last year, the Golden Wave football team failed to make the Group AA playoffs for the first time in six seasons.

A talented mix of youth and experience seeks to start a new string of post-season appearances at Grundy, where as many as a dozen sophomores and freshmen and four of just five seniors on the roster could play key roles.

Its a team that was close to making the playoffs despite its youth last year, with three losses in the final seconds of games ruining a 4-0 start.

"We have a good mixture now of experience and youth," veteran Grundy coach Greg Rowe said. "The kids are more mature. They learned a lot last year."

A veteran quarterback with 38 career touchdown passes, an athletic corps of receivers, and an improved running game and a strong defensive front, including a solid linebacking corps are already strengths for the Wave.

Eight full-time and one part-time regulars return on offense, including maybe the top QB in the area and in the Virginia AA ranks in sturdy junior John Dales (5-9, 170).

The All-SWD QB has a proven receiving coprs, including deep threat Aaron Stiltner (6-1, 173, Sr.), an all-district athlete who averaged an incredible 30 yards a catch last season, all-region wide out Travis Mullins (5-11, 160, Jr.), the versatile Tyde Prater (5-6, 137, So.) and big Bryan Looney (6-4, 281, Sr.), who could be a factor at tight end or in the Grundy backfield.

The well-established Wave air attack could have a more effective and consistent ground game to mix with it this season.

"We're already ahead of last year's running game," Rowe said. "(The backs) are running harder and finding the hole better."

Two solid, all-around athletes, Canaan Prater (6-1, 180, Jr.) and Luke Dales (6-1, 185, So.) will start in the Grundy backfield. The debut of lightning-quick freshman Justin Hipps (5-9, 173), may be delayed by an ankle injury. Looney is in his own class as a power runner and Jake Stacy (5-7, 150, So.) will also see some time.

The play of a young offensive line is a critical factor for Grundy's success this fall. Its a line which features two seniors, two sophomores and a freshman.

Josh McCoy (5-11, 237, Sr.) is the center. Both guards are returning starters, Patrick Crumpton (5-10, 216, Sr.), is back on McCoy's right side and Matt Slone (5-11, 215, So.) is at left guard.

The tackles will be Boddy Ratliff (6-4, 220, So.) and a freshman, Albert Childress (6-4, 249), who could be the best of a good lot. And, potentially, Rowe says, the best of a lot of good big men over the years at Grundy.

Six returning starters, plus two part-time regulars, are available on defense for Grundy.

"We have a few holes to fill defensively," Rowe said. "We've been looking for a defensive end and some secondary people in the pre-season."

Childress and McCoy, who started part-time on both offense and defense last year, anchor the middle of Grundy's defensive front.

See Grundy, Page 31

Wave schedule

Aug. 27	at Sheldon Clark, Ky.
Sept. 3	at Carroll County
Sept. 10	at Garden
Sept. 17	**Prestonsburg, Ky.**
Sept. 24	at Tennessee High
Oct. 1/	*at Richlands*
Oct. 8	***Graham***
Oct. 15	at Coeburn
Oct. 22	Open
Oct. 29	**Tazewell**
Nov. 5	**Lebanon**

1999 Grundy Golden Wave Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 2 John Dales	5-9	170	QB	JR
No. 5 Tyde Prater	5-6	137	WR	SO
No. 6 P.J. Justus	5-7	174	RB	FR
No. 9 Canaan Prater	6-1	180	RB	JR
No. 10 J.T. Pruitt	5-10	146	QB	FR
No. 11 Nick Barrett	5-10	151	WR	FR
No. 14 Travis Mullins	5-11	160	WR	JR
No. 15 Derrick Dotson	5-9	141	QB	FR
No. 17 Shannon Sutherland	5-5	142	WR	JR
No. 18 Galen Boyd	5-8	121	WR	JR
No. 19 Chad Clevinger	5-8	117	WR	FR
No. 20 Doug Fields	5-9	139	WR	JR
No. 21 Aaron Young	5-10	162	TE	FR
No. 22 Brent Hawley	5-11	146	WR	SO
No. 24 Jake Stacy	5-7	150	RB	SO
No. 25 Justin Hipps	5-9	173	RB	FR
No. 30 Joe Smith	6-0	170	TE	JR
No. 33 Greg Clevinger	5-10	140	WR	FR
No. 35 Nathan O'Quinn	5-9	164	WR	JR
No. 42 Mickey Ashby	5-9	191	RB	JR
No. 43 Luke Dales	6-1	185	RB	SO
No. 50 Aaron Lee	5-9	152	G	FR
No. 51 Patrick Crumpton	5-10	216	G	SR
No. 52 Josh McCoy	5-11	237	C	SR
No. 55 Russell Stiltner	5-10	212	C	JR
No. 61 Daniel Deel	5-11	190	G	FR
No. 65 Preston Hibbitts	6-0	330	T	FR
No. 66 Matt Slone	5-11	215	G	SO
No. 70 Jeremy Ward	6-3	225	T	JR
No. 71 Andy Bunn	5-9	213	G	SO
No. 72 Shane Anderson	5-10	250	C	SR
No. 73 Josh Blankenship	5-10	210	G	FR
No. 75 Bobby Ratliff	6-4	220	T	SO
No. 76 Albert Childress	6-4	249	T	FR
No. 77 Kendall O'Quinn	5-9	240	T	FR
No. 78 Larry Stiltner	5-10	244	T	JR
No. 80 Sam Baldwin	5-11	207	TE	SO
No. 81 Aaron Stiltner	6-1	173	WR	SR
No. 83 Brent Cook	5-10	190	TE	JR
No. 84 Bryan Looney	6-4	281	TE	SR
No. 85 Brandon Evans	6-0	172	TE	FR
No. 88 Adam Yates	5-7	123	WR	FR

Shepherd back special among WVIAC players

CHARLESTON (AP) - Shepherd running back Damian Beane knows what he'd like to do for an encore.

As a junior, Beane piled up 1,775 yards in the regular season and led Shepherd into the second round of the Division II playoffs before losing to Slippery Rock.

This year, his shopping list includes 2,000 yards and a Division II championship.

"We always want to say we're the best," Beane said.

Wait. There's more. He's also looking to improve on his fourth-place finish in balloting for the Harlon Hill Trophy, given to Division II's best player.

"Everywhere I look when I'm at school, someone's saying something about it," Beane said. "It's definitely a goal of mine."

The Baltimore native has a realistic chance to set one national record this year and a chance of setting two others.

Beane, who has compiled 11 consecutive 100-yard rushing performances, needs nine more in 10 regular season games to break the Division II mark of 33 set last year by Emporia State's Brian Shay.

The third team All-American also needs six 200-yard games to surpass Shay's all-divisions record of 15, and 2,236 yards rushing in 10 games to break Shay's Division II mark of 6,958.

Sounds crazy, perhaps. But he already has rushed for 4,723 yards œ an average of 1,574 yards per season œ and has spent the summer working out in Shepherdstown to get ready.

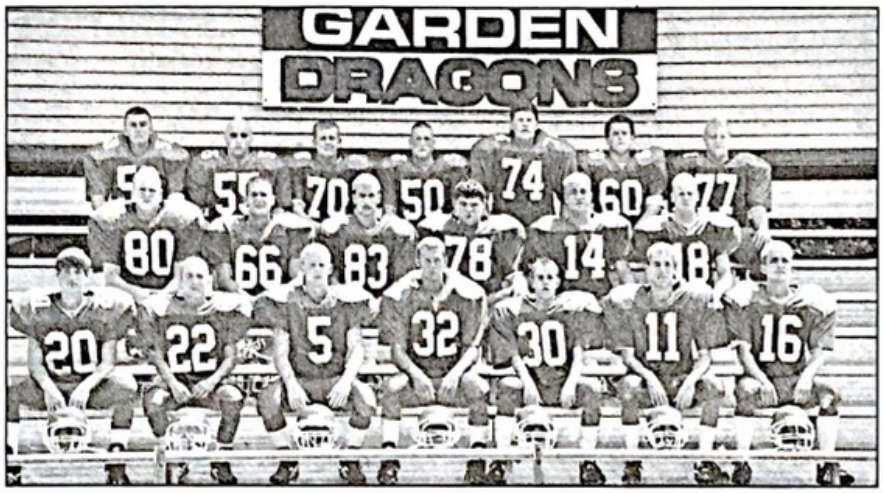
Shepherd won last year's West Virginia Conference championship after sharing the 1997 title with Glenville State. League coaches have overwhelmingly picked Shepherd to win the title again this year.

"I like starting out on top," Beane said. "Everybody says it's easy to get there but it's hard to stay there. It's just

See WVIAC, Page 19

Garden High School Green Dragons

Skill-position players key for Dragons



The 1999 Garden High School Green Dragons

By LLOYD COMBS
for the Daily Telegraph

OAKWOOD, Va. - Lacking size and depth and having to deal with an enrollment that declines annually, Garden has not matched up well with opponents on the football field in recent years.

There's only a litte more size and a little more depth this year, and the enrollment at Garden High School is still under 200 students. But in 1999, there's a difference. This season, opponents may have a hard time matching up, skill-for-skill, with the Green Dragons backfield.

A trio of quick and versatile running backs, led by 1,000-yard rusher Jason Dales (6-0, 266, Sr.) will lead the way for a Garden which was able to put a few points on the board last year and hopes to dent the endzone more this season.

Dales will get plenty of help from the shifty Brit Coleman (5-8, 150, So.) and the versatile Jamie Hill (5-9, 162, Sr.). The latter has experience at quarterback. Dales ran for 1,031 yards as a junior.

Dragons schedule

Aug. 27	at Twin Springs
Sept. 3	at St. Paul
Sept. 10	**Grundy**
Sept. 17	at John I. Burton
Sept. 24	Open
Oct. 1	at Lebanon
Oct. 8	**Haysi**
Oct. 15	**Narrows**
Oct. 22	at Whitewood
Oct. 29	**Hurley**
Nov. 5	**Honaker**

"I've got three pretty good backs," veteran Garden coach Roger Rife said. "Dales is fast, Hill can do a lot of things. And I think Coleman is one of the best young backs in the area. They aren't power runners, but they can run the football real well, they're elusive.

"As far as the skill positions go, this is probably the most talent we've had since 1990. And its probably our besgt shot at the playoffs since the '92 club."

Garden hasn't reached the playoffs since the Dragons went 6-6 and made it into the regional finals in 1992.

A bigger offensive line could help make a solid offensive unit even more effective this year.

Three regulars return, including two seniors, center Larry Clevinger (6-0, 216), and guard Jason Alexander (6-1, 168), along with sophomore tackle Reese Davis (6-5, 260).

Elijah Helton is at the other tackle, while five different players have gotten pre-season looks either at guard or as backups, including juinor R.J. Vanover (6-1, 208). The other four are sophomores Jamey Viars (5-8, 194), Austin Bradley (5-10, 210), Marc Hale (5-10, 219), and Chase Hinkle (6-0, 191).

"The offensive line is coming along," Rife said. "We have some pretty good blocking in the backfield and at tight end."

Craig Keen (5-10, 190, Jr.) moves from fullback to quarterback, a position where Hill has some experience as well.

Jerry Hager (6-2, 187, Sr.) is the tight end, while three first-time starters will divide time at wide receiver, juniors Garrett

See Garden, Page 31

1999 Garden Dragons Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 4 Kevin Meadows	6-0	178	RB	SR
No. 5 Jamie Hill	5-9	162	RB	SR
No. 11 Doug Ramsey	5-10	128	WR	JR
No. 14 Craig Keen	5-10	190	QB	JR
No. 16 Ryan Ratliff	5-9	134	WR	JR
No. 18 Jason Dales	6-0	166	RB	SR
No. 20 Patrick Wade	5-11	141	RB	SO
No. 22 Derick Ratliff	5-1	120	WR	SO
No. 30 Sam Dye	5-8	124	RB	FR
No. 31 Tony Blankenship	5-10	134	WR	SO
No. 32 Brit Coleman	5-8	150	RB	SO
No. 50 Jamey Viers	5-10	194	OL	SO
No. 52 Austin Bradley	5-8	210	OL	SO
No. 55 Tim Rife	5-9	209	OL	JR
No. 59 R.J. Vanover	6-1	208	OL	JR
No. 60 Marc Hale	5-10	219	OL	SO
No. 63 Jason Alexander	6-1	168	OL	SR
No. 64 Josh White	6-3	230	OL	SO
No. 66 Larry Clevinger	6-0	216	OL	SR
No. 70 Chase Hinkle	6-0	191	OL	SO
No. 72 Brad Coleman	6-2	231	OL	JR
No. 73 William Hale	6-3	211	OL	JR
No. 74 Reese Davis	6-5	260	OL	SO
No. 75 Jason Stacy	6-5	365	OL	JR
No. 77 Elijah Helton	5-8	224	OL	JR
No. 78 Henry Stiltner	6-1	241	OL	SO
No. 80 Jerry Hager	6-2	187	TE	SR
No. 81 Ronnie Childress	5-7	140	WR	JR
No. 83 Garrett Wright	5-11	145	WR	JR

Haysi Tigers face rebuilding season

By LLOYD COMBS
for the Daily Telegraph

HAYSI, Va. - He's still more likely to quote Lombardi than Kierkegaard, but James Colley is being as realistic as he is philosophical comparing his Haysi football program's recent past and its immediate future.

The Tigers, after all, relied heavily on John Salyers, who threw and ran for 1,000 yards last year, and his favorite receiver, Kory Bostic, both of whom were all-everything in the district, region and state the last four years.

Salyers and Bostic helped lead Haysi to four Black Diamond District titles. The Tigers have won six straight BDD crowns overall.

"Every year, everyone has someone good to replace though," Colley said. "In all, we lost 14 seniors and its hard to replace all of them, all at once, but a lot of our other guys were pretty good.

"You didn't hear their names

See Haysi, Page 31

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Rt. 10 East Pineville, WV 24874 304-732-8850
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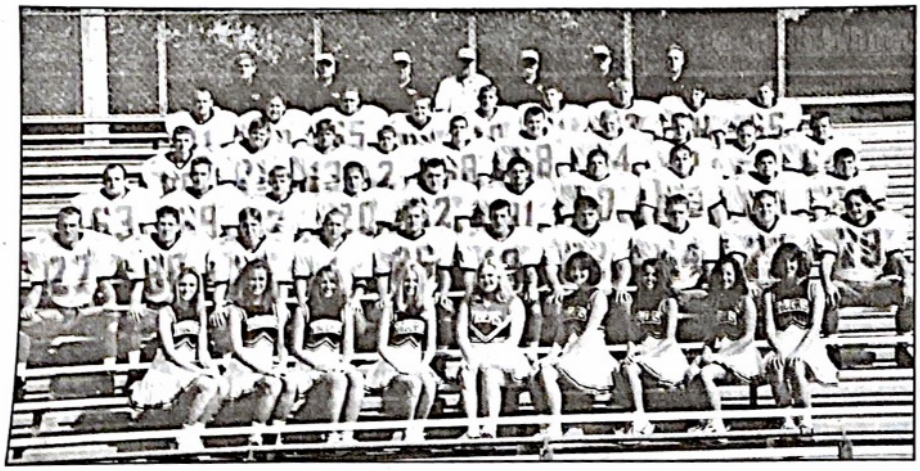
Honaker High School Tigers

Tigers favored to capture BDD title



The 1999 Honaker High School Tigers

By LLOYD COMBS
for the Dailly Telegraph

HONAKER, Va. - Honaker erased a decade of frustration last year when it earned its first playoff berth

There was, however, one little *bit of unfinished business - winning a Black Diamond District championship.*

Fans' expectations this year are higher and so are the expectations of the district's coaches, who have tabbed the Tigers to win the BDD crown for the first time since 1988.

Honaker has four new starters in the offensive line and its leading rusher, Dustin Deel, graduated, but the returning talent is good enough for a shot district honors and another run at the post-season.

"We're excited (about this season)," veteran Honaker coach Doug Hubbard said. "We know we have some big holes to fill. But the kids we have will be okay."

Honaker has one of the top quarterbacks in the area, two solid and proven backs behind hinm and one of the most effective special teams players around.

Josh Honaker (6-1, 165, Sr.), who averaged 40 yards as a punter, and is a reliable field goal threat, also caught 11 touchdown passes from Tiger QB Heath Miller (6-4, 222, Jr.), and those two are keys for Honaker, beginning with Miller.

"Heath may be as good an athlete as any in Southwest Virginia if we don't mess him up," Hubbard said.

Miller will have two solid runners set behind him in the Tiger backfield in seniors Travis Dye (6-0, 190) and Joey Dye (5-9, 156). Travis Dye ran for some 600 yards last season.

Miller's favorite receiving target is Josh Honaker. And when he's not teaming up with Miller, *he's kicking or punting opposing teams deep into their own territory.*

"(Having Josh) so much of an advantage because he's averaged around 40 yards per punt the last two years," Hubbard said. "For your defense, it means so much. I think he's got a good opportunity to play at a I-AA or a Division I schoo. somewhere."

The offensive line lost four to graduation, including all-district performers T.J. Harris and Kevin Lockhart. Left guard Derek Artrip (5-10, 238, Jr.) is the lone returnee. He'll be joined by center Adam Hubbard (5-10, 265, Jr.), and four candidates for the other three starting spots, Waylon Sykes (5-10, 220, Sr.), Thad Ball (6-2, 245, Jr.), Phillip Monk (6-2, 220, Sr.), and Jeffrey Peck (5-11, 204, Sr.).

Lesley *Hale (5-10, 170, Jr.) is* the tight end for the Tigers. Matt Reynolds (5-9, 140, Sr.) and Neil Samples (5-10, 180, Jr.) round out the Honaker backfield.

Travis Dye, an all-district and all-region defensive end and linebacker Joey Dye are key defensive returnees, along with Miller and Josh Honaker in the Tiger secondary.

Adam Hubbard returns to the defensive line, where Sykes will play opposite Travis Dye at end. Ball, Monk and Peck could all see time at tackle for Honaker.

The Tigers' 4-4 defensive alignment will have two new starters inside at linebacker, Joshua Fields (6-0, 185, Jr.), and Jonathan Hess (5-9, 174, Jr.). Joining Joey Dye as an outside backer will be Brian Stump (5-8, 156, Sr.).

Reynolds will start at corner*back. Adam Hubbard could help* Josh Honaker with some of the Tigers' place-kicking duties.

Tigers schedule

Aug. 27	at Lebanon
Sept. 3	**Hurley**
Sept. 10	at Twin Springs
Sept. 17	Open
Sept. 24	at Haysi
Oct. 1	**Rye Cove**
Oct. 8	***John Battle***
Oct. 15	*at Whitewood*
Oct. 22	**Patrick Henry**
Oct. 29	**Castlewood**
Nov. 5	at Garden

1999 Honaker Tigers Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 1 Matt Reynolds	5-9	140	RB	SR
No. 2 Jared Clark	5-8	119	WR	JR
No. 5 Robby Fuller	5-1	105	WR	FR
No. 7 Jason Dye	5-7	125	WR	JR
No. 11 Heath Miller	6-4	222	QB	JR
No. 13 Neil Samples	5-10	180	RB	JR
No. 19 Joshua Honaker	6-1	165	WR	SR
No. 20 Thomas Price	5-6	140	RB	10
No. 22 Joey Barker	6-0	145	WR	SR
No. 26 Joey Dye	5-9	156	RB	SR
No. 27 Travis Dye	6-0	190	RB	SR
No. 31 Nathaniel Hubbard	5-11	185	WR	JR
No. 32 Joey Perkins	5-8	153	RB	SO
No. 37 Josh McGlothlin	5-8	180	RB	SO
No. 39 Joshua Fields	5-11	185	RB	JR
No. 44 Brian Stump	5-8	156	TE	SR
No. 46 Matt Short	5-7	120	TE	FR
No. 48 Greg Dye	5-7	135	TE	FR
No. 50 Jonathan Hess	5-9	174	G	JR
No. 51 William Harrison	6-1	175	T	FR
No. 52 Jamie Lester	5-11	200	C	SO
No. 58 Chris Fuller	5-9	181	G	JR
No. 59 Adam Hubbard	5-10	165	C	JR
No. 60 Chris Justus	5-9	205	G	JR
No. 63 Derek Artrip	5-10	238	G	JR
No. 65 Troy Rutrough	5-11	241	C	SO
No. 66 Derek Edmondson	5-9	208	G	FR

Special Thanks

Sara English
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Lloyd Combs
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Danny Akers

For all your help and support of making this tab possible.

Pirates, Spiders hoping to remain on top

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Jim Reid and Joe Taylor came within an eyelash last season of moving deeper into the Division I-AA playoffs. This season, those coaches plan to do better.

Last year, James Madison, Norfolk State and Virginia Military Institute were mired in yet another losing season. This year, each has a new coach confident he can turn the program around.

Then there is Jimmye Laycock and Sam Rutigliano, both of whom have more than a decade of the ups and downs of I-AA football. Laycock looks to bring William & Mary back to NCAA playoffs after two consecutive 7-4 seasons. Rutigliano is looking for Liberty's first invitation to the playoffs.

For Taylor and his Hampton Pirates, the season ended when blown coverage left a University of Connecticut receiver open for the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter of the opening round of the playoffs. Despite a 42-34 loss to UConn, Taylor said his players returned to Virginia confident they belonged with the best.

"Certainly, the gap has been closed. ... We got in that ball game and tied it up in the fourth quarter, that let us know we do belong. Take away a blown coverage, that could have been a different story," said Taylor, whose team is looking for a third consecutive Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference title.

Reid's Richmond Spiders were upset in the first round, 24-23 by Lehigh.

"Right after it happened, everybody was devastated. I just think they realized that they missed an opportunity," Reid said. The Spiders started the season 0-2, then won the next nine for the school's first Atlantic 10 championship.

"Four-in-a-row, six-in-a-row, seven-in-a-row, eight-in-a-row, nine-in-a-row and you win the championship ... all of sudden you just couldn't hold it down any longer," he said of the heady days just after his team won the title. "Everybody was screaming and yelling. It took us three days, I'm telling you, to get back to reality."

See I-AA, Page 17

Whitewood High School Indians

Indians field experienced team in '99

The 1999 Whitewood High School Indians

1999 Whitewood Indians Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 1 Dustin Mullins	5-10	155	E	JR
No. 7 Jon Price	5-9	170	RB	SR
No. 8 Josh Price	5-9	165	QB	SR
No. 10 John Hughes	6-0	190	E	SR
No. 11 Jason Hale	5-7	150	E	SR
No. 12 Curtis Alford	6-0	158	QB	SR
No. 13 Josh Harrison	5-9	155	RB	SR
No. 20 Ben Hicks	5-6	150	TE	SR
No. 22 James Rogers	5-9	170	RB	SR
No. 32 J.J. Justus	5-10	200	RB	FR
No. 42 B.J. Bostic	5-7	170	RB	SR
No. 50 Richard Mullins	5-9	202	OL	JR
No. 52 Jeremy Sparkman	5-10	195	OL	SR
No. 57 Daniel Hale	5-10	180	OL	SR
No. 61 J.R. Miller	5-10	235	OL	JR
No. 72 Davey Osborne	5-10	260	OL	SR
No. 73 Lee Proffitt	6-1	255	OL	SR
No. 77 Daniel Mullins	5-10	200	OL	SR
No. 80 Jamie Brown	6-0	195	TE	SR
No. 83 Daniel Douglas	6-0	160	RB	JR

By LLOYD COMBS
for the Daily Telegraph

PILGRIM'S KNOB - As one of the smallest high schools in Virginia, numbers is always a concern with *Whitewood's football program.*

After seven years of varsity play, finally, experience is not.

Whitewood lost some key players, especially on defense, but returns enough talent to possibly improve on last year's 2-8 record. And experience, especially with some key personnel, is a key.

Seven offensive and six defensive regulars return.

"This is an experienced group," Daughterty said. "We've got some fourth-year starters and third-year starters and a bunch of second-year starters.

"Our goal now is start winning games. Just being competitive isn't good enough."

Brothers Josh and Jon Price are being counted on to help turn things around as keys in both the offensive and defensive backfields. Also on had is all-district center Jeremy Sparkman and all-district defender John Hughes, who moves from end to linebacker.

"We lost some kids who helped us a lot defensively. Losing John Hurley was a big loss. But we've got some good ones back, like Sparkman and Hughes. And Josh and Jon (Price) make our secondary strong."

The Indians have three returning starters on the offensive line.

Sparkman (5-10, 195, Sr.) will be surrounded by second-year starters Richard Mullins (5-9, 202, Jr.), and J.R. Miller (5-10, 155, Sr.).

Third-year regular James Rogers (5-9, 170, Sr.) starts at fullback for the Indians. Daniel Douglas (6-0, 160, Jr.) will also see time in the backfield. Josh Price, meanwhile, can be as effective running the football as he is throwing it.

John Hughes (6-0, 175, Sr.) has experience at tight end. A trio of first-time starters vie at the wide outs, Jamie Brown (6-0, 195, Sr.), Ben Hicks (5-6, 138, Sr.) and Dustin Mullins (5-10, 155, Jr.).

Most Indians will start on both offense and defense.

Hughes moves from defensive end, where he was first team (All-BDD) and second team (All-Region D) to linebacker, where he'll team up with Rogers and Richard Mullins.

Up front the ends will be Brown and either Curtis Alford (6-0, 158, Jr.) or Dustin Mullins. Inside them on the defensive interior will be Sparkman and tackles Proffitt and Osborne. The safety will be either Hicks or Douglas. Jason Hale (5-7, 150, Sr.) is a backup in the secondary.

Indians schedule

Aug. 20	at Rye Cove
Aug. 27	at Pike Central, Ky.
Sept. 3	**Ervinton (at Garden)**
Sept. 10	Open
Sept. 17	at Narrows
Sept. 24	*at Hurley*
Oct. 1	Open
Oct. 8	at Big Creek
Oct. 15	at Honaker
Oct. 23	**Garden (1:30 p.m.)**
Oct. 30	**Pound (1:30 p.m.)**
Nov. 5	at Haysi

Princeton.....

Continued from Page 4

would say Robby has a little quicker feet so he'll start for us and we'll go from there."

While returning seven starters on both sides of the ball, the strength of the Tigers may lay in their defense, where standout senior defensive end Isaac Montgomery (6-5, 270) anchors a strong Tigers' defense.

Other starters include defensive end Randy Sparks (6-1, 215), Shorter who will start at outside linebacker and senior defensive tackle William Isabelle (6-1, 360).

"William Isabelle is a winner," Spadaro said. "He has given us 100 percent. He wants us as a team to win more football games than we lose."

The real key to the defense may be injuries, something Spadaro feels if the Tigers can avoid injuries on the defensive side, the Tigers may achieve that all-elusive playoff berth.

"We feel that we can go a long way if we don't get the injuries that some teams get."

With 14 starters, two senior quarterbacks, Gilliard and a defense led by Isabelle and Montgomery, the pieces look in place for the Tigers to be well on their way to the playoffs in 1999.

Support Your Team!
Show Your School Spirit
By Attending All Games
This Football Season

I-AA.....

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"This is a new team with a new identity. It's time to start thinking about the future," he said.

Taylor returns a senior-dominated team that has seen its share of bad bounces. In a game that should have won the Pirates some respect, a blown call allowed William & Mary to score the winning touchdown with less than three minutes to play.

"The way we teach our football is that it is a game of life, and that things are not always going to go your way. Rather than point fingers, (we) look at the other opportunities that you had that you could have done more with," Taylor said.

Both losses, Taylor believes, helped his players mature. "It helps them understand what it takes from week to week, both on the field and off."

While Richmond and Hampton try to stay on top, others are struggling to reach respectability.

VMI's bid for its first winning season since 1981 resumes with former Air Force defensive coordinator Cal McCombs taking over as the head coach. Ted Cain was fired last season with a 1-20 record over two seasons — the lone victory being against Division III Lenoir-Rhyne a year ago.

McCombs, a 1967 graduate of The Citadel, was a VMI assistant for 13 seasons and spent the past 15 years at Air Force, where he helped the Falcons to 10 bowl games.

James Madison also will be under new leadership after four-year coach Alex Wood left to become the quarterbacks coach of the NFL's Minnesota Vikings. Mickey Matthews accepted the job in March, two months after being named defensive coordinator at Baylor. He takes over a team that went 3-8 last season, its worst record since 1983, but has 16 starters returning, mostly underclassmen.

Norfolk State also begins anew under a first-year head coach as former NFL assistant Maurice Forte replaces Darnell Moore, fired after leading the team to a 5-19 record in its first two seasons as the Division I-AA level. Forte was running backs coach for Barry Sanders and the Detroit Lions in 1995-96 and running backs and receivers coach at Denver from 1988-94.

Special Thanks....
Eric DiNovo
John Nelson
Bob Campion

Hurley High School Rebels

Hurley hopes size translates 'big' wins

The 1999 Hurley High School Rebels

1999 Hurley Rebels Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 51 Brandon Davis	6-0	238	G	SR
No. 52 Chad Cooper	5-10	220	C	SR
No. 50 Bobby Justus	5-11	218	G	SR
No. 55 Jim Gibson	6-4	255	G	SR
No. 12 Randall Tester	6-2	170	WR	SR
No. 61 Wesley Stacy	6-3	285	T	SR
No. 74 Sammy Dowdy	6-2	320	T	SR
No. 20 Brandon Adkins	6-0	185	QB	SR
No. 7 Anthony Conrad	6-0	175	RB	JR
No. 6 Brad Wolford	5-9	195	RB	JR
No. 71 Roger Shortridge	6-7	275	T	JR
No. 10 Tommy Dotson	6-3	185	WR	JR
No. 56 Anthony Justus	5-11	226	G	JR
No. 21 Travis Quinley	5-9	150	WR	SO
No. 62 Jeremy Justus	5-9	190	G	SO
No. 40 Donnie Stacy	6-2	210	TE	SO
No. 2 Adam Blankenship	6-4	170	QB	SO
No. 82 Brandon Hall	6-0	150	WR	SO
No. 84 Kenny Matney	6-1	175	TE	SO
No. 81 Larry Dotson	5-10	160	WR	SO
No. 23 Glenn Jackson	5-10	160	WR	SO
No. 30 Chris Rowe	6-2	190	QB	FR
No. 22 Jessie Dotson	5-9	145	RB	FR
No. 96 Scott Williams	5-4	112	RB	FR
No. 41 Matt Hunt	5-8	135	G	FR
No. 80 Nick Hall	6-0	160	WR	FR

By LLOYD COMBS
for the Daily Telegraph

HURLEY, Va. - At Hurley, football is big. And so are the Rebels.

The hope is, size can translate into a BIG year.

Hurley returns just five starters from last year's 4-6 club, but four of them are offensive linemen, leaving a pretty sizeable nucleus to build a backfield and receiving corps around. In fact, it may be the biggest group ever in Rebel country.

"We lost a lot of good players, but we've got a good nucleus in our five returning starters," Hurley coach Mark Cooper said. "We've got most of our line back and we've got good size. I think this is the biggest line we've ever had here at Hurley."

All-Black Diamond District guard Brandon Davis (6-0, 238, Sr.) anchors a big and experienced front wall offensively that includes returnees Chad Cooper (5-10, 220, Sr.), Mark's brother, at center, Bobby Justus (5-11, 218, Sr.), at guard and Roger Shortridge (6-7, 275, Jr.) at tackle.

Put 6-2, 320-pound senior Sammy Dowdy at the other tackle and you have an offensive line that averages 254 pounds per man.

"We can line up and play power football with anybody," Cooper said. "Speed will hurt us, but as long as teams play smash-mouth football with us, we'll be all right."

The only other returning regular with offensive experience is tailback Anthony Conrad (6-0, 175, Jr.). Conrad had to share time in a very deep and talented Hurley backfield last season.

One of the Rebels two quarterback candidates is hobbled with an injured ankle. Brandon Adkins (6-0, 185, Sr.) started four game as the Hurley signal caller last year. A promising 6-4, 170-pound sophomore. Adam Blankenship has been the Rebs starter at QB in the pre-season.

The Rebels pro sets will include Brad Wolford (5-9, 195, Jr.) at fullback and Kenny Matney (6-1, 175, So.) at tight end. The wide outs are Randall Tester (6-2, 170, Sr.) and Tommy Dotson (6-3, 185, Jr.).

Hanging on to the football will be even more of a priority for the Rebels this year. Last season, Hurley had the worst takeover/turnover ratio in the BDD.

"Last year we turned the ball over too many times," Cooper said. "We can't do that again and win even four games. We have to do a better job of taking care of the football and I think we will."

A hard-hitting defense has been a source of Rebel pride over the years. Most of the experienced hands will be on the outside from front to back in this year's defensive unit, with Chad Cooper and Davis at outside linebackers, Shortridge at one end and Conrad at cornerback.

Those four will have to lead a defense which, Cooper admits, lacks team speed, but packs the usual Hurley punch.

"Defense should actually be one of our strong points," Cooper said. "Hurley defenses have always been known for not being afraid to hit people. I think we can line up and play physical with anybody."

Opponents will have to deal with a big Hurley defensive front.

The 320-pound Dowdy will line up alongside 6-3, 285-pound senior Wesley Stacy at tackle to hold down the interior defensive line for the Rebels. Jim Gibson (6-4, 255, Sr.) joins Shortridge at defensive end.

The inside linebackers will be Anthony Justus (5-11, 226, Jr.) and Jeremy Justus (5-9, 190, So.).

In the Rebel secondary, Tester will compliment Conrad at a corner and Blankenship will start at free safety.

The Rebels open at home against Ervinton and then play their next two games on the road. The Rebels play at Honaker and Oceana before coming home to play four straight on the home turf.

Hurley will host Matewan (Sept. 17), Whitewood (Sept. 24), Big Creek (Oct. 1), and Rye Cove (Oct. 8).

After an open date on Oct. 15, the Rebels play at Haysi and Garden consecutive weeks.

The final home game of the season is set for No.v 5 against J.J. Kelly.

"We're excited and ready to get started," Cooper concluded.

Rebels schedule

Aug. 27	Ervinton
Sept. 3	at Honaker
Sept. 10	at Oceana
Sept. 17	Matewan
Sept. 24	Whitewood
Oct. 1	Big Creek
Oct. 8	Rye Cove
Oct. 15	Open
Oct. 22	at Haysi
Oct. 29	at Garden
Nov. 5	J.J. Kelly

State blessed with number of talented players

CHARLESTON (AP) - Quincy Wilson is at West Virginia University, Chris Yura is headed to Notre Dame and J.R. House is tossing baseballs in Florida.

Last year's chase for the Kennedy Award was one of the most exciting in years with Weir's Wilson and Nitro's House sharing the honor given to the state's top high school football player.

But with just two of the state's top 12 scorers back, the race for this year's award is wide open.

One of those receiving plenty of attention is Morgantown receiver Ronnie Rodamer, who has scholarship offers from a dozen Division I-A schools, including West Virginia.

His numbers don't tell half the story. Rodamer caught just 23 passes for 651 yards and eight touchdowns last year. But that's because of the dominance of Yura, who rushed for 2,723 yards and 50 touchdowns. Also, Morgantown threw the ball just 83 times in 14 games.

"Once you watch him play, you realize he's a great football player," said Morgantown coach Glen McNew.

With Rodamer replacing Yura in the spotlight, McNew promises to throw the ball more.

The list of other Kennedy hopefuls includes a pair of Scotts at fullback.

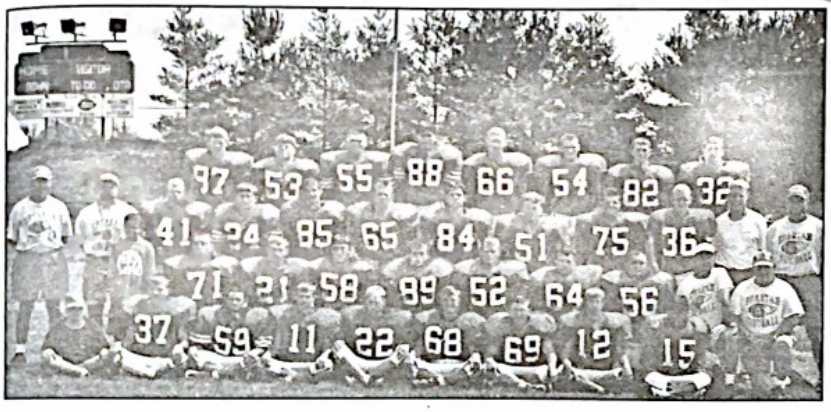
Parkersburg's Scott Davis is a 6-foot-3, 250-pound senior who is being recruited heavily in the East. He had about 1,000 yards rushing last year.

Capitol's Darrion Scott has committed to Ohio State. The 6-foot-3, 230-pounder rushed for 1,291 yards as a junior.

Others worth watching are Iaeger running back Jonathan Bryant, who is the top returning scorer in the state; Liberty Harrison quarterback David Patterson; and running back Tyrone Gilliard of Princeton.

Giles High School Spartans

Defense must get better for Spartans



The 1999 Giles High School Spartans

BY TEDDY PAYNTER
of the Daily Telegraph staff

PEARISBURG, Va. - Veteran Giles football coach Steve Ragsdale isn't one to set goals too high for his program.

He isn't about to start now.

Giles advanced to the Group A state semifinals last year before losing to powerful Powell Valley. The Spartans finished up 10-3 overall.

If Giles is going to win 10 games again this eason, Ragsdale says the defense must improve in a hurry.

"Obviously we must get better on defense," Ragsdale said. "We haven't been able to stop anybody in our two scrimmages."

Ragsdale said his program will enter the season simply "taking it one week at a time."

"I think when you set your expectations too high, people are disappointed. We just have to let the chips fall and see what happens," Ragsdale said.

Giles will open its season against Blacksburg with a very, very green offensive team as well.

Tailback Cooney Ratcliffe (6-0, 155, Jr.) is the lone returner in Giles' single-wing attack. He rushed for over 800 yards last year and passed for more than 200 as well.

"He's the only experienced back we have. We just don't have experience there," Ragsdale said.

Sophomore Carson Ward (5-10, 150) will get the start at fullback while junior Jason Smith (6-2, 155) will get the call at wingback. Two players, Daniel Stevers (6-0, 165, Sr.) and Trey David (5-10, 150), are vying for the blocking back position.

The Spartans have good size along the offensive line. Brandon Clark (6-0, 230, Sr.) will start at center while Josh Davis (6-2, 185, Jr.) will get the nod at left guard.

Andy Bowden (5-9, 215, Sr.) will start at left tackle. Stephen Linkous (6-2, 235, Sr.) will start at right tackle and Dewayne Powell (6-1, 195, Sr.) will go at right guard.

Ross Rhodes (6-2, 155, Sr.) and Justin Williams (6-0, 220, Jr.) will start at left and right ends, respectively.

"Offensively, it's pretty simple for us....we must limit our turnovers. If we can do that we'll be okay. And like I said before...we have to get better on defense. You can't win if you can't stop people," Ragsdale said.

The defensive front will include Davis at nose guard, Linkous and Powell at tackles with Stephen Gilmer (5-11, 165, Sr.) and Smith at ends. Travis Robertson (6-0, 180, Jr.) will be at linebacker along with Clark. Chris Sutphin (5-5, 120, Sr.) will be at one halfback position along with Kelly Keffer (5-10, 145, Sr.). Ratlcliffe will start at safety while Rhodes will play the strong safety position.

Spartans schedule

Aug. 27	**Blacksburg**
Sept. 3	at Floyd County
Sept. 10	**Narrows**
Sept. 17	at Auburn
Sept. 24	**Fort Chiswell**
Oct. 1	**Glenvar**
Oct. 8	*at Radford*
Oct. 15	**Bland County**
Oct. 22	at William Fleming
Oct. 29	Open
Nov. 5	at Shawsville

1999 Giles Spartans Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 11 Jason Williams	5-10	140	FB	SR
No. 12 Josh Williams	5-10	145	WB	SR
No. 15 Chris Sutphin	5-5	120	WB	SR
No. 21 Daniel Stevers	6-0	165	BB	SR
No. 22 Kelly Keffer	5-10	145	BB	SR
No. 24 Trey David	5-10	150	BB	JR
No. 32 Jason Smith	6-2	155	WB	JR
No. 36 Cooney Ratcliffe	6-0	155	TB	JR
No. 37 Carson Ward	5-10	150	FB	SO
No. 41 Stephen Gilmer	5-11	165	FB	SR
No. 51 Andy Bowden	5-9	215	T	SR
No. 52 Jason Belcher	6-0	190	T	SR
No. 53 Bandon Clark	6-0	230	C	SR
No. 54 Josh Davis	6-2	185	G	JR
No. 55 Stephen Linkous	6-2	235	T	SR
No. 56 Daren Law	5-9	265	T	SR
No. 58 Chad Smith	5-10	195	G	JR
No. 59 Jamie Perdue	5-9	150	G	SR
No. 64 Kent McFaden	5-9	210	C	SO
No. 65 Travis Robertson	6-0	180	G	JR
No. 66 Dewayne Powell	6-1	195	G	SR
No. 68 Rocky Baker	5-9	160	C	SR
No. 69 Brad Baker	5-10	170	G	SR
No. 70 Daniel Lafon	5-9	160	C	JR
No. 71 Kevin Law	5-11	180	T	SO
No. 74 Chase Meredith	6-0	175	G	SO
No. 75 Jason Green	5-11	270	T	JR
No. 82 Phillip Tickle	6-2	150	E	JR
No. 84 Andrew Simmons	5-11	180	E	SR
No. 85 Ross Rhodes	6-2	155	E	SR
No. 87 Scott Stafford	6-2	160	E	JR
No. 88 Josh Lawrence	6-4	175	E	SO
No. 89 Justin Williams	6-0	220	E	JR

Nicholas County Grizzlies

SUMMERSVILLE - Once again this season the Nicholas County Grizzlies will count on their defense to hopefully improve upon a 2-8 record one year ago.

"We played defense really well last year," Coach Gene Morris said. "We only scored 92 points all season."

The defense will return Tyler Johnson (5-11, 175, Sr.) at linebacker, Jamie Nash (5-10, 160, Sr.) at another linebacker position, Mitch Kasee (5-10, 155, Jr.) at another.

ach Hill (6-0, 170, Sr.) returns at end along with Josh Asbury (6-1, 165, Sr.) at the other. Tackle Matt Cox (6-0, 220, Sr.) anchors the defensive front while John Brown (6-1, 165, Jr.) returns at safety and Chris Smallwood (5-9, 155, Jr.) returns at corner.

Brown and Asbury are both in the running for the starting quarterback position as well.

Nicholas County will open its season on Friday, Aug. 27th at Robert C. Byrd High School in Clarksburg. The first home game is set for Sept. 3rd against Oak Hill. Others include dates with Elkins (Sept. 10), Tyler Consolidated (Oct. 8), Webster County (Oct. 22), and Roane County (Oct. 29).

Other road dates include Greenbrier West (Sept. 17), Princeton (Sept. 24), Braxton County (Oct. 1), and Richwood (Oct. 29).

WVIAC.....

Continued from Page 14

another challenge. We love being at the top."

Monte Cater, Shepherd's 13th-year coach, might have reservations with that. He refrains from making loftier goals following last year's 10-2 record.

Preseason polls that ranked Shepherd as high as ninth in Division II won't win football games, Cater said.

"There are so many good teams we've got to play coming out of the chute," Cater said. "You've got to think about the team you play next. If that's a clichDe, I don't care.

"It's hard to make the playoffs. This is a tough region we're in. They don't look at our league (for postseason consideration) until somewhere down the line."

Because of the loss of two of his top receivers, tight end Tim Ready and wide receiver Adley Shepherd, Cater will have to rely on Beane to get to the playoffs.

But Beane will have most of his blockers back, along with quarterback Matt Davis, who threw for 15 touchdowns and just four interceptions last year.

Also back is James Rooths, who set a Division II record with five punt returns for touchdowns.

Shepherd also returns 10 starters on defense, which allowed just 13 points per game last season.

Fairmont State may be the only team in the way of Shepherd's quest for a third straight title.

Fairmont State returns 17 starters from the team that went 5-5 and finished second. Running back Robert Davidson returns to challenge Beane for the league rushing title. Davidson finished seventh in the nation with 1,560 yards, including a Division II record 403 yards against Concord in the season finale.

West Virginia Wesleyan (4-6) and West Virginia State (3-8) each have seven starters back on defense.

Wesleyan returns all-league defensive back Al Boyles but has a difficult early schedule against perennial Division II powers Slippery Rock and Catawba.

Defensive standout Damon Booker returns for West Virginia State, which must replace conference defensive player of the year Andre Jones and standout linebacker Charles Smith.

Quarterback Varian Cunningham returns for State after missing last season due to injury.

West Liberty (4-6), seeking its first winning league season since 1995, has six starters back.

Narrows High School Green Wave

Green Wave expects to be competitive

The 1999 Narrows High School Green Wave

By TEDDY PAYNTER
of the Daily Telegraph staff

NARROWS, Va. - Once again veteran Narrows head football coach Don Lowe is playing the numbers game.

Lowe hopes numbers play a key role this season in his team's success in the Mountain Empire District race. Afterall, despite having just 25 players on its roster, the Green Wave did put up impressive numbers in the district one year ago, winning four of five games.

Narrows finished 7-5 under Lowe one year ago. The Green Wave advanced to the Division I, region C final before losing out.

Lowe, like most other coaches in the district, continues to point the finger at Grayson County.

"Ever since I've been here, the district championship always goes through Grayson County," Lowe said. "But I feel like we can be very competitive this year."

A veteran quarterback will lead the Green Wave offensively. Senior Adam Reynolds (5-11, 160) brings experience to the table. Reynolds will play a key role in just how far the Green Wave can travel this season.

Transfer running back Richard Hodge (5-8, 205, Jr.) will be an added plus for the Wave. He comes to Narrows from Giles High School where he was used as a back in the Spartans' potent single-wing attack. Fullback Brent Gordon (5-11, 160, Sr.) adds to the mix of solid backs.

"We feel like we have a solid running game and good leader at quarterback," Lowe said.

Tight end Jim Hazelwood (6-4, 215, Sr.) will be a force as well.

Andy Sparks (6-0, 180, Sr.) and Chris Greenlief (6-5, 205, Sr.) will be the top returners along the offensive line.

Lowe is also counting on his defense to step up and help make the big plays.

Among the top returners are middle linebacker Cory Fisher (5-9, 180, Sr.). He was in on over 160 tackles as a junior last year. Defensive tackle Aaron Perdue (5-7, 190, Sr.) and nose guard Woody Palmer (5-8, 135).

Four of the first six games this season are on the home turf for the Green Wave.

Narrows will enjoy Aug. 28th week off before the Green Wave welcome Craig County to town for their opener on Friday, Sept. 3rd.

Other home games include dates with Whitewood (Sept. 17), Shawsville (Oct. 1), Bland County (Oct. 8), and Fort Chiswell (Nov. 5).

Road stops are at Giles (Sept. 10), Grayson Conty (Sept. 24), Garden (Oct. 15), Pocahontas (Oct. 22), and Galax (Oct. 29).

Wave schedule

Aug. 28	Open
Sept. 3	**Craig County**
Sept. 10	at Giles
Sept. 17	**Whitewood**
Sept. 24	at Grayson County
Oct. 1	**Shawsville**
Oct. 8	**Bland County**
Oct. 15	at Garden
Oct. 22	at Pocahontas
Oct. 29	at Galax
Nov. 5	**Fort Chiswell**

1999 Narrows Green Wave Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 3 Jordan Thompson	5-6	135	RB	SR
No. 8 Dustin Frazier	6-4	190	E	JR
No. 9 Matt Bailey	5-7	140	E	SR
No. 12 Adam Reynolds	5-11	160	QB	SR
No. 14 Chad Turner	5-7	150	QB	SO
No. 17 Woody Palmer	5-8	135	E	SR
No. 20 Terry Martin	6-2	215	RB	SR
No. 22 Richard Hodge	5-8	205	RB	JR
No. 23 Justin Parsell	5-9	160	RB	JR
No. 30 Darryl Blankenship	6-0	135	E	JR
No. 32 J.D. VanSchoyck	6-1	220	RB	SR
No. 43 Brent Gordon	5-11	160	RB	SR
No. 52 Andy Sparks	6-0	180	G	SR
No. 55 Derek Mullins	6-2	260	C	JR
No. 57 Chris Greenlief	6-5	205	T	SR
No. 60 Ryan Craft	5-11	135	G	SO
No. 62 John Kertesz	6-2	210	T	SR
No. 65 Aaron Perdue	5-7	190	C	SR
No. 72 Brandon Lowe	6-0	195	C	SR
No. 73 Greg Burton	5-10	240	T	JR
No. 74 Cory Fisher	5-9	180	G	SR
No. 75 Chris McCroskey	5-8	185	T	SR
No. 84 Jim Hazelwood	6-4	215	E	SR

Mountain Empire District

GALAX, Va. - Galax is looking to get back to the Virginia High School League playoffs this seson.

Galax was 6-5 last season, having lost to Narrows in the first round of the Region C playoffs.

Coach Kim Gillespie must try and find a replacement for 1,000-yard rusher Jacob Vaughan.

Gillespie must try and rebuild a very young offense, and depth will be a problem with just 29 players on the roster.

Running back Jason White and quarterback Josh Bryson, both veteran players, will be key figures for Galax, predicted to finish fourth this season.

FORT CHISWELL, Va. - Numbers are up as Fort Chiswell prepares for the 1999 season.

The Pioneers finished 3-7 last year and are predicted to finish fifth this season in the Mountain Empire District.

Robert Thompson has returned to coach his alumni.

Veteran quarterback Phillip Russell returns for his fourth season for the Pioneers. Junior Michael Paul Alley will be solid at running back while tight end Justin Jones will be another force.

The key....Fort Chiswell must stay heathy to have a chance in the district race.

GRAYSON COUNTY, Va. - The Blues are once again the team to beat in the Mountain Empire Distirct.

Grayson County finished up 7-4 last year, advancing to the first round of the Division 2 regioin C playoffs.

All-stater Travis Jackson is among the 33 players on this year's roster. Jackson will play both offensive guard and defensive tackle. Running back Kenneth Mitchell will be another key at fullback.

Pruett not part of Mashall coaching carousel

HUNTINGTON (AP) — Tony Petersen. Tim Nunez. Larry Kueck. Offensive coordinators who helped bring championships to Marshall.

Money took them away after just one season.

This fall, coach Bob Pruett will have his fourth offensive coordinator in four seasons. And that's not all. Five other assistant coaching positions underwent changes this year.

"I guess Marshall's a hot seat and they get opportunities to advance," said senior offensive lineman Mike Guilliams. " I don't blame them one bit. I'd probably do the same thing if I was in their situations."

Such an overhaul usually brings a period of adjustment and instability. But Marshall continues on with the same master plan that has brought two consecutive Mid-American Conference championships and 101 victories since 1990, the most in the country.

"We have the same philosophy that we had four years ago," said senior defensive lineman Mercer said. "Coach Pruett is the head guy. He's the one that says 'yea' or 'nay' to whatever."

Pruett said change is inevitable.

"That's not any different than any corporation when you promote somebody or lose somebody. That happens in business all the time. I think you have to run your football program as a business," he said.

And business involves money, a big reason why a coach would leave a football powerhouse. Winning brings recognition but not necessarily the dollars needed to pay higher salaries to retain coaches.

Pruett believes money is only part of the equation.

"I think that most of the people who have left, a lot of times had wished that they hadn't and would like to have come back," Pruett said. "We've got a situation here that sometimes we don't realize how good it is until you leave."

Petersen, last year's offensive coordinator, left for Minnesota; 1997 coordinator Tim Nunez went to Texas; and 1996 coordinator Larry Kueck headed to Southern Mississippi.

Shady Spring High School Tigers

Tigers working to get back to playoffs

The 1999 Shady Spring Tigers

SHADY SPRING - Coach John Lilly wants to see his Shady Spring Tigers back in the Class AA playoffs this season.

Shady Spring made the playoffs for the first time in school history.

If the Tigers are to get back, it will be without an experienced backfield.

"We lost our entire backfield," Lilly said.

The Tigers do return one of the state's top prep prospects, Chris McGrady (6-5, 265, Sr.), who will attend Army after his senior year.

Shady Spring returns a number of linemen. Besides McGrady, the Tigers will have back starting guards Andrew Kincaid (6-1, 225, Sr.) and Travis Redden (5-10, 245, Sr.). The other tackle is Danny Carr (6-0, 270, Sr.).

Quarterback Sam Lilly (6-0, 160, Sr.) will guide an inexperienced backfield. Craig Neal (6-0, 175, Sr.), Josh Rose (6-1, 165, Jr.), and Remmy Bortell (6-1, 170, Jr.) are among the top candidates at running back.

Tigers schedule

Aug. 27	**Chapmanville**
Sept. 3	at Tug Valley
Sept. 10	**Summers County**
Sept. 17	at Independence
Sept. 24	**PikeView**
Oct. 1	**Baileysville**
Oct. 8	Open
Oct. 15	at Scott
Oct. 22	**Sissonville**
Oct. 29	at Liberty-Raleigh

Shady will open its season on Friday, Aug. 27 at home against Chapmanville. Other home games include Summers County (Sept. 10), PikeView (Sept. 24), Baileysville (Oct. 1), and Sissonville (Oct. 22).

The Tigers will play road games at Tug Valley (Sept. 3), Independence (Sept. 17), Scott (Oct. 15), Liberty-Raleigh (Oct. 29), and Bluefield (Nov. 5).

BECKLEY FLYING EAGLES

BECKLEY - Beckley looks to improve on back-to-back 4-6 season under veteran coach Pete Culicerto who will likely step down as coach of the Flying Eagles.

The Eagles return four linemen, including tackles Mike Webb (6-4, 366), Joe Scott (6-0, 330), and Ryan Morris (6-3, 235) at tackles, while Brad Lowe (6-4, 245) returns at guard.

Beckley will have speed in the backfield, starting with tailbacks Mike Ross and Jamar Dunnigan. Larry Patterson (5-11, 215) will be at fullback. Chris Lawson and Nate Manns will get playing time at ends.

Nick Culicerto, the coache's nephew, is among three leading candidates at the quarterback position. Steve Robinson and Danny Donnelly are the others.

Beckley will open its season on Saturday, Aug. 28, at Oak Hill. After a second straight road game at Philip Barbour (Sept. 3), the Eagles open at home on Sept. 10 against Spring Valley.

Other home games include Bluefield (Sept. 24), Mount View (Oct. 1), Man High (Oct. 15), and Cabell-Midland (Oct. 29).

Other road games include Huntington High (Sept. 17), Capital (Oct. 9), and Greenbrier East (Oct. 22).

LIBERTY RAIDERS

LIBERTY - It's safe to say the Liberty-Raleigh Raiders must rebuild this football season.

The Raiders lost 13 players from last year's 8-3 team which advanced to the Class AA playoffs.

Liberty does return its quarterback from that team, Jarred Pugh (5-11, 200, Jr.).

The top returning lineman is Chris Wilson (5-11, 235, Sr.).

The Raiders will open the 1999 season on Saturday night, Aug. 28th, at home against Rock Hill, Ohio.

Other home games include PikeView (Sept. 10), Independece (Oct. 15), Baileysville (Oct. 22), and Shady Spring (Oct. 29).

Road games are at Wyoming East, Marsh Fork, Sherman, Summers County, and Oceana.

1999 Shady Spring Tigers Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 1 Zach Dotson	6-1	170	TE	JR
No. 2 Matt Caldwell	6-1	165	RB	JR
No. 3 Josh Williams	5-6	115	RB	10
No. 8 Frank Trabucco	5-9	160	RB	SR
No. 9 Ryan Young	6-3	215	TE	SR
No. 10 Sam Lilly	6-1	155	QB	SR
No. 11 Josh Rose	6-1	165	QB	JR
No. 12 Wayne Smith	5-8	140	QB	SO
No. 19 Scott Mays	5-10	145	RB	SR
No. 21 Remmy Bortell	6-1	170	RB	JR
No. 22 Craig Neal	6-0	175	RB	SR
No. 23 Justin Link	6-0	170	RB	JR
No. 24 Adam Harvey	5-10	125	RB	SO
No. 28 Aaron Forinash	5-9	145	RB	JR
No. 30 Derek Martin	5-9	140	RB	SO
No. 32 Seth Stidham	6-1	170	MAN	SO
No. 33 Adam Carrico	5-10	175	FB	SO
No. 35 Tom Hess	5-10	210	FB	SO
No. 42 Lee Nugen	6-3	220	FB	JR
No. 45 Adam Mann	6-1	190	FB	JR
No. 50 Justin Lough	6-1	215	C	JR
No. 52 Andrew Kincaid	6-0	225	G	SR
No. 53 Shane Lilly	5-11	210	G	JR
No. 54 Robert Kincaid	5-10	170	G	SO
No. 60 T.J. Harvey	5-10	189	G	SR
No. 61 Kevin Rakes	6-1	200	C	JR
No. 63 Josh Skelton	6-1	200	T	SO
No. 64 Travis Redden	5-8	222	G	SR
No. 65 Shane Ragland	5-9	165	G	JR
No. 66 Sean Workman	5-10	180	G	SO
No. 70 Danny Carr	5-11	265	T	SR
No. 74 Chris McGrady	6-5	265	T	SR
No. 75 Brad Bostic	6-1	218	T	JR
No. 76 James Farley	5-11	295	T	SR
No. 77 Mike Moten	5-11	223	T	JR
No. 80 Brandon Moore	6-1	180	TE	JR
No. 82 Jeremy Davis	5-10	170	RB	SR
No. 85 Justin Pack	5-10	160	TE	JR
No. 88 Mike Sears	6-0	180	TE	JR
No. 99 Shawn Moore	5-11	165	TE	JR

Officials say Scott Stadium will be ready in time

By MIKE JUDGE
for the *Daily Telegraph*

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. — There's new sod in one end zone, no bleacher seats where visiting fans will sit and no shower fixtures in the home locker room. Not exactly how you'd picture a football stadium weeks before the home opener.

But University of Virginia officials expressed confidence that Scott Stadium will be ready when the Cavaliers take on Wake Forest Sept. 18 during a tour for media members.

Scott Stadium is in the midst of a $79 million renovation project that will enclose the south end of the facility. More than 15,000 seats will be added to the stadium, bringing game capacity to 60,000 - third largest in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

For this season, the old south end zone area has been transformed and 3,517 seats have been added. That will complete the lower seating bowl, allowing fans to walk around the football stadium on one level. Work through the fall and into 2000 will complete the upper deck, suites and club seating in the south end zone.

"The project is on schedule, within one percent of the cost on the bids. We're very pleased with that," said Mark Fletcher, Associate Director for Athletic Facilities Planning. "It's been a huge team effort to pull this together."

The work is part of a three-year project, fueled by a $25 million gift by former Virginia player Carl Smith. A new videoboard went up high over the north end zone before last season, and a parking garage will be built behind the new addition in the fall of 2000.

The improvements also include new restrooms, concession areas and landscaping to make the game-day visit more enjoyable. An average of 205 workers are on the stadium site six days a week going into the home opener.

"It will be a huge improvement in the north end," Fletcher said. "We wanted

See Stadium, Page 31

Bland County High School Bears

Bears excited about new grid season

The 1999 Bland County Bears

By DOUG STREET
of the *Daily Telegraph* staff

BASTIAN, VA. — Although they may have a new look with a lot of new players, the 1999 Bland County Bears will still bring the same enthusiasm that head coach Dan Tibbs' teams have shown in the past.

Part of that new look will include half of the team, 14 of 28 players, being either freshman or sophomores.

Tibbs knows that a lack of game experience, such as the one his squad has coming into the season, can be a problem.

"It's a concern," Tibbs said of his team's youth. "This is the first year we've had those numbers. I have a lot of games scheduled for (the freshmen and sophomores) and I think they're going to be contributors."

One of those who may contribute this year is freshman quarterback Brandon Kelly (5-10, 130).

While senior T.J. Vaughn will be at the helm, Kelly may seem some playing time which will be a benefit down the road for the Bears.

One place where Bland County doesn't have to worry about youth is at the skill positions on offense.

Seniors Zane Perkins (5-6, 140) and Mark McKee (5-10, 176) are two players whom Tibbs will look at to provide much of the offensive punch.

Perkins can also make some noise on the defensive side of the ball as well. An All-District strong safety in 1998, Perkins will look to follow up with another strong season in the bears' defensive backfield.

With Perkins as an anchor, Tibbs expects good things out of his defense in the upcoming season, with the help of a mix of veteran and younger players.

"Casey Elliott (6-0, 212) is just a sophomore, but I look for him to step up as well as McKee at strong side linebacker.

"We're going to be better defensively."

The Bears are going to have play better defensively, especially with a tough schedule ahead of them.

Although Bland County has their first three games at home (Aug. 27 vs. Auburn, Sept. 3 against Grayson County and Sept. 10 against Pocahontas), the Bears must play four of their final five games on the road with games at Montcalm (Oct. 1), Narrows (Oct. 8), Giles (Oct. 15) and Fort Chiswell (Oct. 29).

With the Bears coming off a disappointing 1998 campaign, Tibbs said the influx of youth has brought a new and fresh attitude to his team which Tibbs said will be a welcome improvement.

"Our attitude this year is a whole lot different than last year," Tibbs said. "We got rid of some people last year that weren't that good of team players.

"This year we're unified. We're saying the same thing and I believe we'll be successful."

Bears schedule

Aug. 27	**Auburn**
Sept. 3	**Grayson**
Sept. 10	**Pocahontas**
Sept. 17	at Shawsville
Sept. 24	**Craig County**
Oct. 1	at Montcalm
Oct. 8	at Narrows
Oct. 15	at Giles
Oct. 22	**Galax**
Oct. 29	at Fort Chiswell
Nov. 5	*Open*

1999 Bland County Bears Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 7 Brandon Kelley	5-10	130		FR
No. 10 T.J. Vaughn	5-9	155		SR
No. 15 Zach Perkins	5-6	125		SR
No. 16 Zane Perkins	5-6	140		SR
No. 17 Christian Simpkins	5-6	120		FR
No. 20 Casey Elliott	6-0	212		SO
No. 21 Sam Wright	5-10	145		SO
No. 22 Mark McKee	5-10	176		SR
No. 32 Brandon Blessing	5-7	150		FR
No. 35 John Darby	5-11	145		FR
No. 40 David Pike	5-9	130		FR
No. 42 Ben Leighton	6-2	221		JR
No. 55 Adam Goforth	5-10	220		JR
No. 60 Bradley Johnson	6-0	260		SR
No. 61 Eugene Brunk	5-8	220		FR
No. 64 Daryl Stanley	5-9	177		FR
No. 72 Gabe Sparks	6-1	274		SR
No. 74 Charlie Stiltner	6-4	230		JR
No. 70 James Williams	5-9	230		JR
No. 75 Matt Richardson	5-10	190		JR
No. 77 Carl Williams	6-0	210		FR
No. 81 Curtis Brewer	5-10	150		JR
No. 85 Josh Kidd	6-0	145		SR
No. 88 Josh Buchanan	6-4	160		SR
No. 89 Reggie Medows	6-0	180		SO
No. 94 James Thompson	5-8	140		FR

Independence Patriots

SOPHIA - The Independence Patriots looks to improve upon last year's 5-5 record when they kickoff the 1999 season at Midland Trail on Saturday night.

Running back Kyle Acord (5-10, 185, Sr.) ran for more than 1,200 yards last year.

Acord should benefit from a veteran offensive line. The Pats return all five starters, including John Moore (6-1, 230, Jr.), Brett Cooper (6-6, 230, Sr.), Scott Greer (6-4, 225, Jr.), Roy Harless (6-4, 225, Jr.), and Steve McKinney (6-0, 225, Sr.).

Acord is the only talented back on this team. Quarterback Chris Rice (6-3, 205, Sr.) and fullback John Kramer (5-10, 195, Sr.) give the Pats a solid offensive attack.

Independence will play its first home game on Sept. 3rd against Sherman of Seth. Other home games include Shady Spring (Sept. 17), Ocenana (Sept. 24), Richwood (Oct. 1), and Wyoming East (Oct. 29).

The Patriots will play other road games at Greenbrier West (Sept. 10), Liberty-Raleigh (Oct. 22), PikeView (Oct. 22), and Summers County (Nov. 5).

"We're hoping to build around our tailback. And we've got a pretty solid offensive line," Coach Scotty Cuthbert said.

The IHS coach says the key again this season will be on defense. The Pats can't afford to give up the big play.

"We had a tendency to give up big plays last year, and we can't do that and expect to win games," Cuthber said.

Overall, he says the team is excited and ready to face the challenges of 1999.

Good Luck Bears!

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Summers County High School Bobcats

Bobcats look to produce more wins

The 1999 Summers County High School Bobcats

HINTON - Summers County finished 5-5 last year. The Bobcats are very optimistic they'll improve this year under Coach Norman Farley's leadership.

Farley has reason to smile. The Bobcats return nine starters from a year ago.

The top returners on offense include tight end D.F. Mock (6-1, 190, Sr.), center Robbie Tabor (5-10, 220, Sr.), and Warren Winter (5-8, 170, Jr.).

The strength could be on defense. returning are Chad Epling (5-10, 220, Sr.), Joe Yancey (5-8, 265, Jr.), and Jimmy Ballangee (5-8, 200, Sr.), all tackles. Greg Meadows (5-8, 190, Jr.) is the top returning linebacker. Jese Miller (5-8, 150, Sr.) returns at safety along with Chris DeWitt (5-8, 150, Jr.).

Miller and DeWitt are both likely to see playing time at quarterback for the Bobcats.

Anthony Bowyer (5-7, 190, Jr.), cody rice (5-9, 160, Jr.) Meadows and Miller are the top candidates as well at running back.

Summers County will open its season at Oceana on Friday, Aug. 27. The home opener for the Bobcats is set for Sept. 3rd at Wyoming East. Other home games include PikeView (Sept. 17), Greenbrier West (Oct. 1), Liberty-Raleigh (Oct. 8), and Independence (Nov. 5).

The Bobcats will also play on the road at Shady Spring (Sept. 10), James Monroe (Sept. 24), Richwood (Oct. 15), and Pocathonas County (Oct. 22).

Bobcats schedule

Aug. 27	at Oceana
Sept. 3	**Wyoming East**
Sept. 10	at Shady Spring
Sept. 17	**PikeView**
Sept. 24	at James Monroe
Oct. 1	***Greenbrier West***
Oct. 8	**Liberty-Raleigh**
Oct. 15	at Richwood
Oct. 22	at Pocahontas County
Oct. 29	Open
Nov. 5	**Independence**

WYOMING COUNTY FOOTBALL
Wyoming East Warriors

NEW RICHMOND - The Wyoming East Warriors will be put to the test early this football season as they open with tough road games at Iaeger and Summers County.

Wyoming East, a consolidation of Pineville and Mullens, finished 6-4 last year, but lost their final four games after opening the season with six straight wins.

The Warriors have a Division I prospect in tight end Caleb Cooper (6-5, 265, Sr.), a three-year starter.

Coach Kevin Grogg also returns veteran quarterback Robert Gunner (6-0, 185, Sr.), who has been a four-year starter. Fullback Justin Grogg (5-10, 185) is also among the top returners.

Others include linebacker Davie Harris (5-11, 185, Sr.), tailback Michael Hill (5-9, 175, Sr.), and end Jeremy Clark (6-3, 185, Sr.).

The Warriors will face Liberty-Raleigh in their home opener on Sept. 17, following an open date on Sept. 10. Other home games include Big Creek (Sept. 24), Sherman (Oct. 8), Greenbrier East (Oct. 15), and Mount View (Oct. 22).

Wyoming East will also play road games at Oak Hill (Oct. 1), Independence (Oct. 29), and Man High (Nov. 5).

1999 Summers Bobcats Roster

NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	CLASS
No. 6 Chester Barnett	5-8	135	SE	SO
No. 7 Justin Tabor	5-10	155	RB	JR
No. 10 Chris Dewitt	5-11	160	QB	JR
No. 11 Eli Morgan	5-11	155	QB	SR
No. 15 Shane Bennett	5-7	140	RB	FR
No. 20 Cody Rice	5-9	160	RB	JR
No. 21 Jesse Miller	5-8	155	RB	SR
No. 23 Chad Burdette	5-7	130	RB	FR
No. 24 Justin Keaton	5-4	125	QB	FR
No. 30 Anthony Bowyer	5-7	190	RB	JR
No. 32 Jeff Conner	5-10	195	FB	SO
No. 33 Steven Richmond	5-8	140	RB	FR
No. 40 Dustin Richmond	5-9	240	FB	SR
No. 43 Jared Conner	5-8	175	RB	SO
No. 44 Derrick Martin	5-10	165	RB	FR
No. 45 Rick Lawrence	5-5	140	FB	SR
No. 50 Jon Farley	6-0	185	OL	SO
No. 51 Warren Winter	5-5	180	OL	JR
No. 54 Joe Yancey	5-10	270	OL	JR
No. 55 Robbie Tabor	5-6	210	OL	SR
No. 61 Nathan Merritt	5-9	109	OL	FR
No. 62 Matt McGraw	5-5	160	OL	JR
No. 64 Josh Eerenberg	5-9	170	OL	SO
No. 65 Chris Dillon	5-4	145	OL	JR
No. 66 Derrick Berry	5-8	255	OL	FR
No. 67 Chad Epling	5-8	210	OL	SR
No. 70 Michael Reed	5-6	130	OL	FR
No. 73 Ricky Smith	5-8	185	OL	SR
No. 74 James Leftridge	6-1	245	OL	SR
No. 75 Joseph Pack	6-0	195	OL	SO
No. 76 Matt Bradberry	6-0	210	OL	JR
No. 77 Mark Long	5-11	275	OL	FR
No. 78 Jimmy Ballengee	5-8	235	OL	SR
No. 81 Matt Hatfield	6-0	170	OL	JR
No. 83 Devon Mann	5-10	200	TE	SO
No. 84 D.F. Mock	6-2	190	TE	SR
No. 87 Matt Bennett	5-7	125	TE	FR
No. 88 Cody Coffman	6-1	175	TE	FR

Oceana Indians

OCEANA - Oceana's goal this season is a simple one - the Indians want to win more games.

After posting a 1-9 mark last year, sixth-year coach Micah Short feels good things could happen this season for his Tribe.

The Indians lost just one senior from last year's team. Leading the charge is running back Andrew Stevens (6-0, 160, Sr.) The talented player rushed for more than 700 yards last year and caught passes for as much yardage.

Andrew Lusk (5-7, 185, Sr.) and Matt Steele (6-0, 175, Sr.) are also top backs for the Indians. Junior Ryan Spaulding (5-10, 185) returns at quarterback..

Chad Dunford (6-0, 180, Sr.) will be at defensive end and must be a key part of the Indians' efforts to improve over last year. Senior nose guard David Ray (5-11, 225) is a key figure as well.

Oceana will open at home on Aug. 27 against Summers County.

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WVU football

Bulger doesn't anticipate any distractions

By MICKEY FURFARI
for the *Daily Telegraph*

MORGANTOWN — Marc Bulger doesn't anticipate any distractions during his final season as West Virginia University's starting quarterback.

"I don't think the media hype will affect me a lot," the 6-3, 212-pound senior said as veterans prepared to start fall drills.

"The team will be focused on the season. And the preseason stuff doesn't bother me. Realistically, I don't look for any consideration in the Heisman Trophy poll."

That might well hinge on how the Mountaineers fare as a team. He already owns 19 WVU game, season and career records.

"I'm pretty excited," Bulger admitted. "(Thursday) we'll get going. I can't believe it's my last season."

He said seeing the freshman reminded him and other seniors how they probably looked when coming in four years ago.

The team tries to set goals, including specific numbers it would like to attain. But the Pittsburgh native doesn't like to get caught up in that.

"I'm not going to worry about numbers as long as we're winning," he said. "(Donovan) McNabb's numbers weren't all that great last year, but his (Syracuse) team was winning. That's really the main thing."

McNabb was voted Big East Offensive Player of the Year.

Bulger again expressed confidence in the ability of WVU's all-new offensive line.

"Those guys did a great job last winter and spring," he said. "And they've been here all summer and worked hard.

"So I don't think there are as many questions about the line as the media seems to think. We'll just have to see how it goes."

WVU football

Bulger holds key to success in '99

MORGANTOWN (AP) - Marc Bulger pulls up to the West Virginia football training complex and slides out of his red Jeep, a model without doors or solid roof.

His protection, it seems, is lacking. Just like when he's on the football field.

Bulger, holder of 21 school passing records, enters his senior season as the anchor of a team decimated by graduation and NFL-bound players.

Gone are Bulger's entire offensive line, his two best receivers and career rushing leader Amos Zereoue.

Even with Bulger, the Mountaineers are rebuilding. But a schedule that includes six teams with losing records last year gives WVU hope for a bowl for a fifth straight season.

"We hope he's the guy that can plug the dike," said WVU coach Don Nehlen, who is entering his 20th season. "When you have a kid as polished as Marc, he might be able to sneak us through one or two (victories) that we might not get if we didn't have a guy like him.

"But we have to find a way to help Marc Bulger," Nehlen said. "We're not going to win a lot of football games putting everything on Marc Bulger's shoulders. That's not fair."

Bulger isn't about to give in to thoughts of spending the season knocked on his back because of a depleted offensive line.

"I have confidence in our guys," he said. ``They rotated a lot last year. People probably didn't realize when they were in because they did a good job. So I'm not real concerned with our line."

West Virginia 1999 schedule

Sept. 4 East Carolina (at Charlotte, N.C.)
Sept. 11....Miami of Ohio
Sept. 18.....at Maryland
Sept. 25.....at Syracuse
Oct. 2.....Navy
Oct. 9.....Open
Oct. 16.....Rutgers
Oct. 23.....Temple
Oct. 30.....at Miami
Nov. 6.....Virginia Tech
Nov. 13..at Boston College
Nov. 27.....Pittsburgh

In fact, he intends to pick up where he left off, when he threw for 429 yards and four touchdowns in an Insight.com Bowl loss to Missouri last December.

Bulger believes he will throw the ball more this year, between 30 and 40 times a game. He expects the Mountaineers to use the running game to help their passing attack. Last year, the pass was used to complement Zereoue.

Still, West Virginia may be hard pressed to match the 410 points scored last season, the second most in the Nehlen era.

Zereoue's departure for the NFL after his junior season left a huge hole in the offense. He rushed for a career record 4,086 yards, including 1,430 yards and 13 touchdowns last season, sixth best in Division I-A.

To compound matters, backup Alvin Swoope left school in the spring with academic and family problems.

That left redshirt freshman Avon Cobourne and Notre Dame transfer Cooper Rego, who have never played in college, along with sophomore Brannon Goins, who had 15 carries for 67 yards a year ago.

Things are so desperate that Nehlen could look more often to fullback Anthony Green, who was used mainly as a blocker for Zereoue and has just 281 yards rushing in three seasons.

And just as Nehlen sought out Zereoue in his freshman year, the same could happen to Quincy Wilson, the 1998 co-state player of the year who rushed for 2,200 yards in the regular season at Weir High.

At wide receiver, Antonio Brown, Pat Greene and Khori Ivy look to fill the void left by the school's top two all-time receivers, David Saunders and Shawn Foreman. WVU also has 6-foot-6 Anthony Becht, considered the Big East's premier tight end.

On defense, WVU lost its three starting linemen but returns most of its linebackers and is solid at defensive back.

Linebacker Barrett Green's 107 unassisted tackles in 1998 more than doubled that of the next leading tackler, linebacker Kyle Kayden. Kayden and No. 4 tackler Chris Edmonds also return.

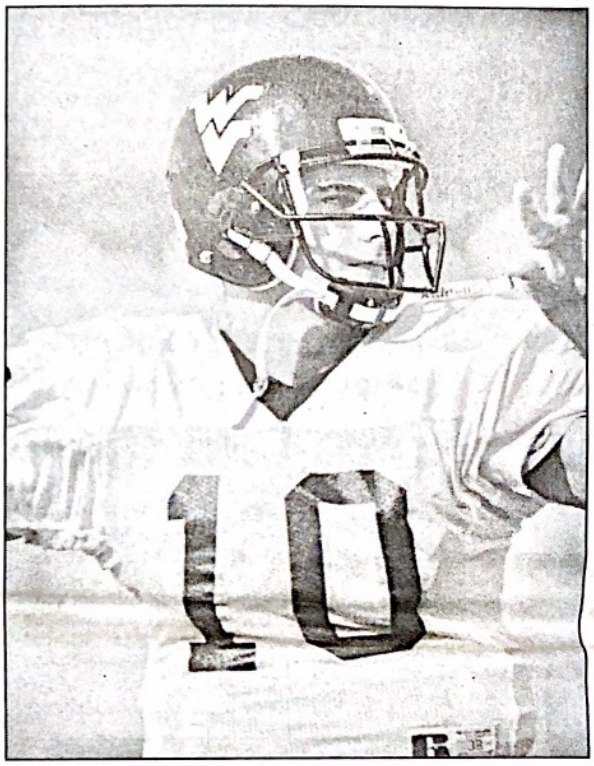
Starters Scooter Davis, Jerry Porter, Gary Thompkins and Perlo Bastien return at defensive back, as does Nate Terry, who earned all-conference honors in 1997 but missed the final 10 games last year with a collarbone injury.

The Mountaineers' first game won't be as pressure-packed as the past two seasons. They opened with cross-state rival Marshall in 1997 and then-No. 1 Ohio State a year ago, when WVU was picked to win the Big East but finished tied for second.

The Mountaineers, who open with East Carolina on Sept. 4 in Charlotte, N.C., have been picked by the media to finish fourth in the conference this year.

Just how far can the Mountaineers travel this college football season?

It's simple...as far as Bulger can take them, and hopefully, that will include a post-season bowl bid.



File photo

The Leader...
West Virginia University quarterback Marc Bulger will lead the Mountaineers up against a solid Big East schedule.

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Marshall football

Herd set goals higher this season

HUNTINGTON (AP) - There's a saying at Marshall that all the Herd does is win championships.

And with the nation's winningest program this decade œ 101 victories, a bowl win, two straight conference championships and two Division I-AA titles Marshall's coaches and players have come to expect success.

Now, with 19 starters back from the team that went 11-1 in the regular season, Marshall is aiming higher.

Already touted as the preseason conference favorite, Marshall has its sights set on a national ranking and greater exposure for its talented quarterback Chad Pennington.

While flirting with the Top 25 for the first time a year ago, the Herd wants to leap into the rankings, stay there and remain undefeated.

"I think this year is a lot different," Pennington said. "The nonconference games this year, they're really crucial for us now that we're getting on the national scene and gaining some notoriety. We've experienced the MAC championship and realize we have to win the MAC again to prove ourselves. But also being able to play well and beating nonconference teams is a must."

Even one loss this year will be a disappointment.

Last year Marshall started 8-0 and moved within striking distance of the AP poll before losing to Bowling Green œ its only loss œ and dropping out of contention. The team won its final two regular season games, beating Toledo in the MAC title game and winning the Motor City Bowl over Louisville in Pontiac, Mich.

Marshall 1999 schedule

Sept. 4	at Clemson
Sept. 11	**Liberty**
Sept. 18	**Bowling Green**
Sept. 25	**Temple**
Oct. 2	at Miami, Ohio
Oct. 9	Open
Oct. 16	**Toledo**
Oct. 23	at Buffalo
Oct. 30	**Northern Illinois**
Nov. 6	at Kent
Nov. 13	at W. Michigan
Nov. 20	**Ohio**

Marshall's weak schedule works against a possible Top 25 run. Its 1999 opponents had a combined 50-72 record last year. The Herd opens the season Sept. 4 with a nonconference game at Clemson, which went 3-8 last season. Other nonconference foes include Division I-AA Liberty and perennial Big East doormat Temple.

"I think Clemson's going to end up being a strong football team," said Marshall coach Bob Pruett, who has a 37-4 mark in three seasons. "Good players are not their problem."

Pruett welcomes a possible entrance into the top 25.

"It sells tickets. We'll take anything that sells tickets," Pruett said. But he added: "It's not how you start. It's how you finish."

Marshall's toughest task will be an Oct. 2 game at Miami, Ohio, which is coming off a 10-1 season and returns Travis Prentice, the 1998 conference offensive player of the year. Both Prentice and Pennington are being touted by their respective schools as Heisman Trophy candidates.

"Hopefully both of us will be coming in undefeated to where there's going to be a lot of hype," Pennington said. "I think our players understand that game's probably bigger than the game against Clemson. It will definitely be more hostile."

The other test will be Nov. 13 at Western Michigan, which returns 17 starters, including quarterback Tim Lester.

Last year, Lester threw for a school-record 435 yards and four touchdowns in a 56-27 victory against Bowling Green. He finished the year with a school record 22 TD passes. He also has a career mark of 53 TD passes.

Like a year ago, Pennington will be the focal point of Marshall's offense.

Pennington, who threw for 3,419 yards and 24 touchdowns against just seven interceptions last year, is considered a frontrunner for the Davey O'Brien Award, given to the nation's top quarterback. He is the only returnee among last year's 10 candidates.

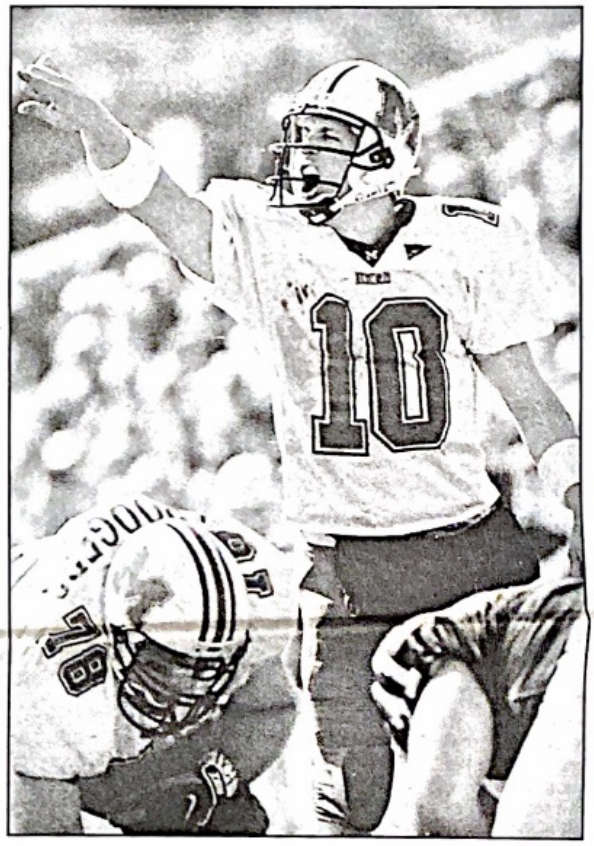
Marshall should be solid again in the backfield with the return of Doug Chapman and Llow Turner.

Chapman, seeking to rush for 1,000 yards for a fourth-straight year, had 1,184 yards and 15 TDs in the regular season, while Turner, who had 320 yards, gave the Herd a boost with a team-high 94 yards in the Motor City Bowl.

Marshall must replace two of its top three receivers in LaVorn Colclough and Jerrald Long. But that shouldn't be a problem œ Pennington threw to 18 receivers last year, including Nate Poole, who led Marshall with 616 yards receiving.

On defense, Marshall returns its top four tacklers and cornerback Danny Derricott, who led the team with six interceptions last year.

For the third straight year, Marshall also has the advantage of hosting the conference title game Dec. 3 at 30,000-seat Marshall Stadium. The Herd is 69-4 at home since 1991, the year the stadium opened.



File photo

Field general...

Marshall quarterback Chad Pennington is among the best.

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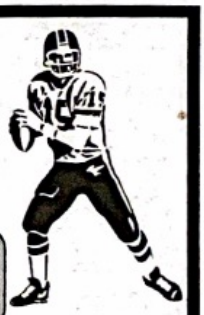

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Virginia Tech Hokies

Hokies hope to land another bowl bid

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — A quarterback who has never thrown a pass in a college game is normally enough of a question mark to cause prognosticators and other experts to take a wait-and-see attitude about a college football team with high hopes.

That's not true at Virginia Tech, where heralded redshirt freshman Michael Vick takes over behind center. The Hokies were one of six teams to get a first-place vote in The Associated Press preseason top 25, and they'll start the season ranked 13th.

"I told you it was a new day at Virginia Tech," coach Frank Beamer, chuckling, told a group of reporters as the team kicked off preseason practice this year.

Fourteen starters return from last year's team, which finished 9-3 and used a stifling defense to throttle Alabama 38-7 in the Music City Bowl.

Not among the returnees is quarterback Al Clark, a steady starter for two years. In his place, Vick is expected to use his quick feet, powerful arm and flair for the dramatic to pace the Hokies' powerful offense.

"I know people are expecting a lot out of me," Vick said. "It really puts the pressure on, but I know I've just got to take it one game at a time. I just want to win some games, maybe win the Big East and maybe get a shot at a national championship."

Vick will have lots of weapons at his disposal when the Hokies have the ball.

Shyrone Stith, part of a tailback rotation his first two seasons, will get a chance to be the featured back after running for 699 yards last season, averaging 5.3 yards a carry.

"I'm feeling pretty good about myself and how the team has progressed," he said.

The Hokies also have high expectations for backup tailback Lee Suggs, a redshirt freshman, and get Jarrett Ferguson, another big playmaker, back at fullback.

Tech's wide receivers could emerge as a strength, too, especially if Vick can take advantage of Ricky Hall's ability to go deep. Hall had 37 catches and eight touchdowns last season. He's the only proven pass-catcher, but the host of potential contributors includes freshman Andrae Harrison, a hotly recruited high school teammate of Vick.

Vick and speedster Andre Davis teamed on a 90-yard TD pass during a controlled scrimmage, and Vick finished 9-for-14 for 189 yards and two touchdowns.

Special teams have defined the Hokies under Beamer. With three-time all-Big East placekicker Shayne Graham and two-time all-Big East punter Jimmy Kibble back, the Hokies boast "the best combination of kickers in the nation," Beamer said.

They're also pretty good when the other team is kicking. Since Beamer became coach in 1987, the Hokies have blocked 73 kicks in 138 games, 12 of them last season, including two in the bowl game. During Beamer's tenure at Tech, the defense and special teams have combined to score 49 touchdowns, 32 by the defense.

This year, the Hokies' defense should again be a big factor as Beamer's crew pushes for its seventh bowl berth in as many years.

Corey Moore is listed as a 6-foot, 212-pound defensive end, but he had 13 1/2 sacks last season, blocked two kicks and recovered two fumbles. He's among six returning defensive starters along with end John Engelberger and tackles Nat Williams and Carl Bradley.

"I feel confident we can go out as a team and be competitive," Moore said. "We have a lot of veterans on defense. It's important that we come out strong and support the newcomers on offense."

Three of those will be in the secondary, where rover back Pierson Prioleau, the defensive leader, cornerback Loren Johnson and free safety Keion Carpenter are gone.

Ike Charlton, whose five interceptions last year shared the team lead, will anchor the secondary from his cornerback spot, with veterans Anthony Midget, Cory Bird and Phillip Summers, redshirt sophomore Larry Austin and redshirt freshman Ronyell Whitaker ready to step in.

Jamel Smith and Michael Hawkes return at linebacker, where they ranked first and fourth, respectively, in tackles last season. Lorenzo Ferguson faces theft and forgery charges and will not return as the whip linebacker, but sophomore Ben Taylor played a lot in reserve last season and led the Hokies in special teams tackles.

"He can do it all," Smith, a senior, said of Taylor. "He can punt, he's a head-hunter on special teams and he's got speed. When he gets everything down pat, I think he's going to be Virginia Tech's next superstar."

The Hokies' record also stands to benefit from favorable scheduling. After opening the season with home games against James Madison and Alabama-Birmingham, the Hokies play their two most difficult Big East games at home. Syracuse visits Oct. 16, and Miami visits Lane Stadium Nov. 13.

File photo

Hokies on the move....

Virginia Tech hopes to return to the top of the Big East in 1999.

Virginia Tech Hokies 1999 schedule

Sept. 4....James Madison
Sept. 11.....U. Ala-Birm.
Sept. 18.....Open
Sept. 23.....Clemson
Oct. 2.....at Virginia
Oct. 9.....at Rutgers
Oct. 16.....Syracuse
Oct. 23.....Open
Oct. 30.....at Pittsburgh
Nov. 6.....at West Virginia
Nov. 13.....Miami
Nov. 20.....at Temple
Nov. 26....Boston College

1999 Bowl Schedule
By The Associated Press

Dec. 18 Las Vegas Bowl, 6 p.m. (ESPN)
Dec. 22 Mobile Alabama Bowl, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Dec. 25 Aloha Bowl, Honolulu, 3:30 p.m. (ABC)
Dec. 25 Oahu Bowl, Honolulu, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Dec. 27 Motor City Bowl, Pontiac, Mich., 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Dec. 28 Alamo Bowl, San Antonio, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Dec. 29 Music City Bowl, Nashville, Tenn. 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Dec. 29 Holiday Bowl, San Diego, 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Dec. 30 Humanitarian Bowl, Boise, Idaho, 3 p.m. (ESPN2)
Dec. 30 Micron PC Bowl, Miami, 7 p.m. (TBS)
Dec. 30 Peach Bowl, Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Dec. 31 Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas, 2:15 p.m. (CBS)
Dec. 31 Insight.com Bowl, Tucson, Ariz., 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Dec. 31 Liberty Bowl, Memphis, Tenn., 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Dec. 31 Independence Bowl, Shreveport, La., 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl, Dallas, 11 a.m. (FOX)
Jan. 1 Outback Bowl, Tampa, Fla., 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Jan. 1 Gator Bowl, Jacksonville, Fla., 12:30 p.m. (NBC)
Jan. 1 Citrus, Orlando, Fla., 1 p.m. (ABC)
Jan. 1 Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif., 4:30 p.m. (ABC)
Jan. 1 Orange Bowl, Miami, 8:30 p.m. (ABC)
Jan. 2 Fiesta Bowl, Tempe, Ariz., 8 p.m. (ABC)
Jan. 4 Sugar Bowl, New Orleans, 8 p.m. (ABC)

1999-2000 College Football Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 2
William & Mary at Delaware, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 4
James Madison at Virginia Tech, 1 p.m.
Virginia at North Caroiina, noon
VMI at Richmond, 7 p.m.
Delaware St. at Hampton, 1:30 p.m.
Virginia St. at Norfolk St., 6:30 p.m.
Virginia Union at Liberty, 7:30 p.m.
Randolph-Macon at Gettysburg, 1 p.m.
W. Maryland at Bridgewater, 1 p.m.
Washington and Jefferson at Emory & Henry, 1 p.m.
Sewanee at Hampden-Sydney, 1 p.m.
W. Virginia Tech at Virginia-Wise, 1:30 p.m.
Apprentice at Ferrum, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 11
Alabama-Birmingham at Virginia Tech, 1 p.m.
Virginia at Clemson, 3:30 p.m.
Villanova at Richmond, 1 p.m.
William & Mary at N. Carolina St., 1 p.m.
Northeastern at James Madison, 6 p.m.
Concord at VMI, 1 p.m.
Hampton vs. Howard at RFK Stadium, Washington, D.C., 4 p.m.
Norfolk St. at Florida A&M, 7 p.m.
Liberty at Marshall, 7 p.m.
Randolph-Macon at W. Maryland, 1 p.m.
Virginia Union at Cheyney St., 1 p.m.
Johnson C. Smith at Virginia St., 1:30 p.m.
Emory & Henry at Ferrum, 1 p.m.
Gettysburg at Hampden-Sydney, 1 p.m.
Washington and Lee at Johns Hopkins, 1 p.m.
West Liberty, W.Va. at Virginia-Wise, 1:30 p.m.
Apprentice at Bethany, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 18
Wake Forest at Virginia, 7 p.m.
Richmond at Maine, 7 p.m.
Furman at William & Mary, 1 p.m.
James Madison at New Hampshire, noon
E. Tennessee St. at VMI, 1 p.m.
Hampton at Ark.-Pine Bluff at Trans World Dome, St. Louis, 5 p.m.
Norfolk St. at Delaware St., 1:30 p.m.
Liberty at Tennessee Tech, 8 p.m.
Washington and Jefferson at Randolph-Macon, 1 p.m.
Virginia Union at Livingstone, 1:30 p.m.
N. Carolina Central at Virginia St., 1:30 p.m.
Emory & Henry at Bridgewater, 1 p.m.
Catholic at Apprentice, 1 p.m.
Guilford at Washington & Lee, 1 p.m.
Virginia-Wise at Cumberland, Ky., 1:30 p.m.
Ferrum at Greensboro, 1 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 23
Clemson at Virginia Tech, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 25
Virginia at Brigham Young, 9 p.m.
New Hampshire at Richmond, 1 p.m.
William & Mary at Northeastern, 12:30 p.m.
Delaware at James Madison, 6 p.m.
VMI at Furman, 7 p.m.
Hampton vs. Grambling at Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, N.J., 2 p.m.
Fayetteville St. at Liberty, 7:30 p.m.
Winston Salem St. at Virginia Union, 7 p.m.
Virginia St. at Savannah St., 1:30 p.m.
Bridgewater at Ferrum, 1 p.m.
Davidson at Emory & Henry, 1 p.m.
Hampden-Sydney at Guilford, 1 p.m.
Centre at Washington and Lee, 1 p.m.
Virginia-Wise at Concord, 1 p.m.
Apprentice at Chowan, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 2
Virginia Tech at Virginia, TBA
Richmond at Delaware, 1 p.m.
James Madison at Villanova, 1 p.m.
Georgia Southern at VMI, 1 p.m.
Hampton vs. Southern at RCA Dome, Indianapolis, 7 p.m.
N. Carolina A&T at Norfolk St., 1:30 p.m.
Johnson C. Smith at Liberty, 7:30 p.m.
Washington & Lee at Randolph-Macon, 1 p.m.
Bowie St. at Virginia Union, 7 p.m.
Virginia St. at Livingstone, 1:30 p.m.
Bridgewater at Hampden-Sydney, 1 p.m.
Apprentice at Virginia-Wise, 1:30 p.m.
Methodist at Ferrum, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 9
Virginia Tech at Rutgers, 6 p.m.
Duke at Virginia, TBA
Rhode Island at Richmond, 1 p.m.
Villanova at William & Mary, noon
VMI at Wofford, 1:30 p.m.
Hampton at N. Carolina A&T, 1:30 p.m.
Norfolk St. at S. Carolina St., 1:30 p.m.
Liberty at South Florida, 7 p.m.
Randolph-Macon at Catholic, 1 p.m.
Elizabeth City St. at Virginia Union, 1:30 p.m.
Bridgewater at Maryville, 1 p.m.
Hampden-Sydney at Emory & Henry, 1 p.m.
Davidson at Washington & Lee, 1 p.m.
Guilford at Ferrum, 1 p.m.
Stillman at Apprentice, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 16
Syracuse at Virginia Tech, TBA
Virginia at N. Carolina St.
Richmond at Hofstra, noon
James Madison at William & Mary, 1 p.m.
Chattanooga at VMI, 1 p.m.
Hampton at Norfolk St., 1:30 p.m.
Liberty at E. Tennessee St., 2 p.m.
Emory & Henry at Randolph-Macon, 1 p.m.
Fayetteville St. at Virginia Union, 1:30 p.m.
Guilford at Bridgewater, 1 p.m.
Washington & Lee at Hampden-Sydney, 1 p.m.
Virginia-Wise at Presbyterian, S.C., 1:30 p.m.
Wesley at Apprentice, 1:30 p.m.
Ferrum at Chowan, 1 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 22
Bridgewater at Johns Hopkins, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 23
William & Mary at VMI, 1 p.m.

Virginia football

Cavaliers hope to start quick in '99

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — The way George Welsh looks at Virginia's be-ready-or-be-in-trouble schedule, opening up against tough opponents can be a very good thing.

"If anything, it will help our concentration," Welsh said of the slate that has the Cavaliers starting with road games at ACC rivals North Carolina and Clemson.

After a preseason in which much attention on Virginia football has been on who won't be joining the Cavaliers from the outset, focus is just what Virginia needs.

More than most years, graduation left huge holes in the Cavaliers, and the offseason hasn't been much better with academic casualties and several key losses.

Backup tailback Antwoine Womack will miss the season while defending himself against charges he took part in a brawl last February, and defensive back Devon Simmons and linebacker John Duckett were suspended for a year by the school's student-run judiciary committee after pleading guilty to charges in the fight.

Outside linebacker Donny Green, a two-year starter, and defensive end Darryl Sanders, expected to play extensively, have been sidelined by grade problems.

Welsh, entering his 18th season as the Cavaliers coach, said the offseason was one of his worst, but he also knows such unexpected setbacks are almost inevitable.

"That's the nature of the game," he said. "This is a tough university."

Virginia is one of four Division I teams in the country to have won seven games in each of the last 12 seasons, but the 24th-ranked Cavaliers will have to get help from several untested players — especially defensively — to make it 13 in a row.

Virginia 1999 schedule

Sept. 4	at North Carolina
Sept. 11	at Clemson
Sept. 18	**Wake Forest**
Sept. 25	at BYU
Oct. 2	**Virginia Tech**
Oct. 9	**Duke**
Oct. 16	at N.C. State
Oct. 23	Open
Oct. 30	**Florida State**
Nov. 6	**Georgia Tech**
Nov. 13	**Buffalo**
Nov. 20	at Maryland

ACC defensive player of the year Anthony Poindexter, a four-year starter, is gone, along with defensive end Patrick Kerney, middle linebacker Wali Rainer and tackle Tony Dingle. The foursome helped make Virginia one of the nation's leading defenses a year ago, and the offseason problems have hampered the retooling efforts.

"The whole defense concerns me right now. We're thin," Welsh said.

Defensive end Travis Griffith returns as the most likely candidate to replace some of Kerney's 15 sacks, but the other end spot is up for grabs. Yubrenal Isabelle figures to step into Rainer's spot in the middle, but Green's loss means outside linebacker Byron Thweatt, the second-leading tackler last season, is the only starter back at linebacker.

Poindexter, one of the best defenders in school history, won't be patrolling the secondary this season, but Antwan Harris, Dwayne Stukes and Tim Spruill all are back and should help make opposing passers pay when they make an errant throw.

Easily the brightest spot is senior tailback Thomas Jones, who led the ACC in rushing with 1,303 yards last season. Jones also caught 28 passes and is expected to shoulder a bigger offensive load this season because of his game-breaking ability, the loss of Womack and the need to ease quarterback Dan Ellis into his role as the starter.

"You are going to see a healthy dose of Thomas all 11 games," Ellis said.

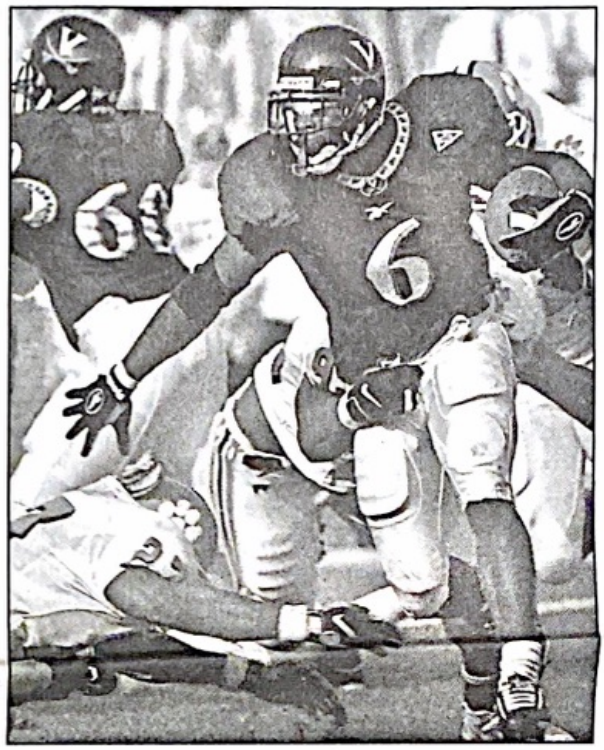
Jones, who earned his degree in three years, will start the season 1,190 yards from breaking New York Giants tailback Tiki Barber's school record of 3,389 yards, set in 1996.

One of the key additions may prove to be offensive coordinator Gary Tranquill, who rejoined Welsh last February after Sparky Woods left for Mississippi State.

Tranquill shares Welsh's appreciation for offensive balance, so Ellis will get plenty of opportunity to show that he's ready. Welsh said Ellis is smart and has improved greatly, but "whether he can be accurate and do it under pressure, nobody knows."

Tight end Casey Crawford has often looked like first-round draft choice material with his bruising style, but he dropped more than his share of passes a year ago and has been hampered by injuries and is recovering from a hernia operation.

Kevin Coffey had a 25.4 yards per catch average last season, but caught only 23 balls. Kenny Crawford and Ahmad Hawkins combined for 21 catches last season.



File photo

Among the best...

University of Virginia running back Thomas Jones in action.

Placekicker Todd Braverman needs to bounce back from a poor end to last season, when he made only four of his last 12 field goals tries and missed two field goals and an extra point in the Cavaliers' 35-33 Peach Bowl loss against Georgia. Welsh said the job will be Braverman's to lose, but kickoff specialist David Greene is waiting in the wings.

Punter Donnie Scott returns after averaging 42.6 yards per kick last season.

If the Cavaliers can get through their early games, including a visit to Brigham Young in late September, in good shape, the road clears considerably. Of their last nine games, the three toughest will all be at home — Virginia Tech on Oct. 2, and co-defending ACC champs Florida State on Oct. 30 and Georgia Tech the following weekend.

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Concord College Mountain Lions

CC football: 'The Pride is Back'

By DOUG STREET
of the *Daily Telegraph* staff

ATHENS — "The Pride is Back."

That is the first thing new head coach Ollie Pottmeyer has instilled in his program, to bring the pride back to a program that has taken a downturn in recent years.

Although the Mountain Lions went 6-5 during the 1998 campaign, Concord suffered a sub-.500 (3-4) record in the WVIAC conference.

Concord has also suffered some key losses from last year's squad, mainly Soloman Paddyfoote. Concord's leading rusher from a year ago takes with him the 1,274 he gained during the 1998 season.

Add to that, the losses of such players like wide receiver Billy Bussy (1,606 all-purpose yards, 46 catches in '98), offensive linemen James Bielewicz and Richard Arrington (First and second team All-WVIAC selections respectively) and tight end Kevin Hutchinson (honorable mention selection in the WVIAC), and the Mountain Lions look like they're in a rebuilding year.

Oh, by the way, Concord also lost their record-setting quarterback Mike Lazo.

With a 53-percent completion percentage and 1,507 passing yards, Lazo gave Concord not only stability at the quarterback position, but leadership and a will to win.

However, this season may be anything but a rebuilding year at Concord, considering seven starters return on offense while 10 return on defense.

Leading Pottmeyer's offense will be sophomore quarterback Tyler Hull, whose 1,203 passing yards in '98 jumpstarted the Lions sown the stretch. Hull's 124.5 passing-efficiency rating ranked him second among Division II freshman and 43rd in the country.

Concord 1999 schedule

Aug. 28.....at Lenoir-Rhyne
Sept. 4.....Open
Sept. 11.....at VMI
Sept. 18.....at Cumberland
Sept. 25.....Clinch Valley
Oct. 2...Shepherd College
Oct. 9.....at West Liberty
Oct. 16.....at Glenville State
Oct. 23.....WV Wesleyan
Oct. 30.....WVState
Nov. 6.....at Fairmont State
Nov. 13.....WV Tech

Hull has good size (6-3, 200) and the respect not only of his coach but of the rest of his team.

Joining Hull in the backfield will be fullback Hubert Fuller. The 6-0, 200-pounder rushed for 493 yards in 1998 while scoring four touchdowns. Sophomore running back Duane Thomas (5-11, 205) will also be looked at to carry some of the load for Concord.

Blocking for Hull, Fuller and Thomas will be a solid offensive line that averages 6-2, 270 pounds per man.

Seniors Quentin Short (OG, 6-1, 270) and Ernie Madrigal (C, 6-1, 265) anchor the line along with juniors David Bass (OT, 6-4, 270), Tim Brangan (6-1, 270) and sophomore David Hunt (OG, 6-2, 270).

Adding more size to the line will be transfer Richard Tuifalo (6-5, 350).

Defensively, All-WVIAC selection Mark Workman (6-4, 350) returns to his defensive tackle position looking to wreak havoc on opposing offenses once again in 1999.

Three junior college players have been added to the defense, including Ricky Leung-Wei (6-3, 285) and Soo Vitale (6-3, 290). They will join three-year starters Scott Norris (6-4, 240) and Steve Truckenmiller (6-2, 265).

The secondary is led by senior defensive back Cesar Martinez (5-8, 160), an All-WVIAC selection in 1998.

Also leading the secondary will be three-year starter Carl Thompson.

The road through the 1998 season will not be an easy one for Pottmeyer's squad. For starters, the Mcuntain Lions must begin with three tough road games against Lenoir-Rhyne (Aug. 28), VMI (Sept. 11) and Cumberland (Sept. 18).

Featured on Concord's home schedule will be UVA-Wise (formerly Clinch Valley College), along with interconference rivals Shepherd (Oct. 2), West Virginia Wesleyan (Oct. 23), West Virginia State (Oct. 30) and West Virginia Tech (Nov. 13).

The Mountain Lions have been tabbed to finish in the lower bracket of the WVIAC.

Veteran WVU coach says WVU team on schedule

MORGANTOWN - "We're pretty much on schedule," Coach Don Nehlen said Saturday as West Virginia University completed its two-a-day practice period.

"We've had six workouts without pads and 12 in full gear. So we're about where we should be at this time."

The Mountaineers have two more weeks to prepare for the season's opener against East Carolina on Saturday, Sept. 4, at Charlotte, N.C.

Nehlen noted that this year's team is inexperienced in some spots on both offense and defense. But there also are some players who have become outstanding at their positions.

The veteran coach said he thought last year's team "should have won 9 or 10 games." It finished with an 8-4 record.

"This team will not be underachieving," he predicted confidently. "I guarantee that.

"These players did a great job conditioning this summer with (strength coach) Al Johnson - maybe the best ever. Now it's our job to get them ready." He thinks this team will get better as the season moves along.

Nehlen revealed that the all-new offensive line "is just about ready" to be an effective unit. "I think it can be decent. From the fifth game on, I look for it to be very competitive."

He said the defensive line, also with all new starters, is in somewhat the same situation. But three members of that cast have started some games.

"We're going to play more defensive linemen (as many as 10) than we have in a long time," Nehlen said.

"I am very impressed with our linebackers and the secondary. Coach (Tony) Pierce has done a good job (with the defensive backs)."

While pleased with his team's progress, Nehlen cautioned: "Injuries could make a big difference. You take two or three key players out and we're dead. But I feel that it's probably the same with Miami and Syracuse

See WVU, Page 31

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NFL TEAM CAPSULES FOR THE 1999-00 SEASON

AFC WEST

DENVER (14-2)

LAST YEAR: Threatened 1972 Dolphins' unbeaten mark before losing in 14th week to Giants. Lost again to Miami but recovered to win second straight Super Bowl, 34-19 over Atlanta. Terrell Davis (2,008 yards) became fourth 2,000-yard rusher in NFL history and was league MVP. QB John Elway retired after 16 years.
ADDITIONS: CB Dale Carter, signed as free agent from Kansas City; LB Al Wilson, first-round pick; and DE Montae Reagor, (2nd round), to provide an alternative pass rusher.
SUBTRACTIONS: Elway, a sure first-ballot Hall of Famer; S Steve Atwater.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Bubby Brister, 4-0 at quarterback last season in games Elway missed, will now be full-time starter at 36. Chris Miller, back after a three-year retirement with a concussion, has looked good early and so has second-year-man Brian Griese. If Brister fails, either could probably step in.
OUTLOOK: One of the deepest teams in football and likely to make a good run at repeating. Terrell Davis' ability to run behind one of the game's best offensive lines makes it easy for whomever plays quarterback.

SEATTLE (8-8)

LAST YEAR: Won first three games but finished at .500 for third time in four seasons, costing Dennis Erickson his job. Mike Holmgren, who led Green Bay to Super Bowl win in 1997, is new coach and general manager. Jon Kitna took over at quarterback in midseason and showed promise.
ADDITIONS: Holmgren and his staff are most important. Free agent WR [illegible] could prevent double and triple coverage on Joey Galloway, who remained a holdout through the first two exhibitions.
SUBTRACTIONS: Warren Moon, the 42-year-old quarterback who was demoted midway through last season.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Kitna, who tore up the World League two years ago, has come along nicely, but Holmgren still has some questions. Dawkins, who's never really fulfilled his promise despite OK seasons in Indianapolis and New Orleans. Second year RB Ahman Green, who will share time with Ricky Watters.
OUTLOOK: The personnel, particularly on defense, is good enough to make the playoffs and Holmgren has instilled discipline, turning the self-absorbed Watters, of all people, into an unselfish team leader. The big "if" is quarterback.

OAKLAND (8-8)

LAST YEAR: Started 6-2, finished 2-6 in Jon Gruden's first year as head coach, missing playoffs for fifth straight season. Ended the Jeff George quarterback experience after the season.
ADDITIONS: QB Rich Gannon. OT Matt Stinchcomb, No. 1 draft pick, was pegged to start immediately, but has been struggling early. RBs Rashaan Salaam and Tyrone Wheatley, first-round failures elsewhere, are in for the annual Al Davis reject school.
SUBTRACTIONS: QB Jeff George, RB Harvey Williams, KR Desmond Howard.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: CB Charles Woodson, NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year, could get shot on offense. Gannon, who brings mobility to QB position.
OUTLOOK: With tough schedule in tough division, breaking playoff drought could be difficult. Gannon is a known quantity — a mobile career backup, a good leader — but not a Super Bowl quarterback.

KANSAS CITY (7-9)

LAST YEAR: Dogged by injuries and quarterback controversy, Chiefs had first losing season in 10 years under Marty Schottenheimer, who resigned after season. New coach is former defensive coordinator Gunther Cunningham.
ADDITIONS: OT John Tait, first-round pick, who held out in camp and probably won't contribute much this year. Free agent pickups include QB Warren Moon, LB Marvcus Patton and CB Cris Dishman.
SUBTRACTIONS: Schottenheimer, QB Rich Gannon and CB Dale Carter.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: The 42-year-old Moon and QB Elvis Grbac, who has been injury-plagued disappointment.
OUTLOOK: Cunningham, a player favorite as an assistant, has been so intense that veteran players had to get him to loosen up in camp. He may have arrived at the wrong time — recent drafts haven't been great. Looks like a .500 team at best.

SAN DIEGO (5-11)

LAST YEAR: A disaster on and off the field, with rookie QB Ryan Leaf responsible for most of damage in a 5-11 season in which coach Kevin Gilbride got fired after six games and interim coach June Jones bolted for Hawaii after the season.
ADDITIONS: Coach Mike Riley, QBs Jim Harbaugh and Erik Kramer; WR Jeff Graham, S Darren Perry, LB Eric Hill.
SUBTRACTIONS: LB Kurt Gouveia, OL Raleigh McKenzie, Leaf (injured). Leaf's absence is addition by subtraction because of his negative influence among fans and in locker room.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Harbaugh, who's the starter at quarterback for now. He brings the kind of maturity that Leaf lacks. So does Kramer. Also keep an eye on LB Junior Seau, who might play some offense as a blocking back and tight end.
OUTLOOK: The defense is good. If the offense gets better, could challenge the Chiefs and Raiders for third.

AFC CENTRAL

JACKSONVILLE (11-5)

LAST YEAR: Won AFC Central. Beat New England 25-10 in first-round, lost to Jets, 34-24, in divisional playoffs.
ADDITIONS: TE Kyle Brady, S Carnell Lake, DL Gary Walker, CB Fernando Bryant and DL Larry Smith, first two draft picks. Defensive coordinator Dom Capers, former head coach in Carolina.
SUBTRACTIONS: TE Pete Mitchell, DL John Jurkovic, OG Brian DeMarco.
PLAYER TO WATCH: RB Fred Taylor, second-year player who could be headed toward the 2,000-yard mark.
OUTLOOK: In a weak division, could get home-field advantage for playoffs. Certainly one of AFC Super Bowl favorites, although defense needs to improve on field, not just on paper.

TENNESSEE (8-8)

LAST SEASON: Three .500 seasons in three cities the past three years — Houston to Memphis to Nashville. Four losses in final six games ended playoff chances.
ADDITIONS: DE-LB Jevon Kearse, first-round draft pick; FB Lorenzo Neal. Team president Jeff Diamond.
SUBTRACTIONS: DT Gary Walker, DE Anthony Cook.

AFC Teams

PLAYER TO WATCH: Kearse, who may energize a pass rush that ranked next to last in sacks last season. QB Steve McNair, who's been coming along nicely and second-year WR Kevin Dyson, who was taken ahead of Randy Moss last year and has to provide deep threat in sophomore season. Diamond, who helped make Vikings a power, is someone who should have been hired years ago — owner Bud Adams was over his head trying to run the team.
OUTLOOK: Finally get a home with opening of new stadium and are now Titans instead of Oilers. They should make the playoffs — if not, coach Jeff Fisher could be in trouble.

PITTSBURGH (7-9)

LAST YEAR: Missed playoffs for first time in coach Bill Cowher's seven seasons as offense self-destructed amid QB Kordell Stewart's season-long struggles. Defense badly missed departed veterans like Greg Lloyd and Rod Woodson.
ADDITIONS: OT Wayne Gandy, OT Anthony Brown, S Travis Davis, WR Alex Van Dyke. WR Troy Edwards, No. 1 pick. Offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride. S Scott Shields, second-round pick from Weber State, who could replace departed Carnell Lake immediately.
SUBTRACTIONS: Lake, FS Darren Perry, FB Tim Lester, G Will Wolford, K Norm Johnson. Offensive coordinator Ray Sherman.
PLAYER TO WATCH: Stewart. His improvisational skills were underutilized by Sherman, who preferred a QB who rarely left the pocket. Gilbride is slowly trying to rebuild his confidence.
OUTLOOK: Offense has looked better in exhibitions, although Edwards is still learning and second-year man Hines Ward is starting. Should compete with Tennessee for second place and wild-card berth.

BALTIMORE (6-10)

LAST YEAR: Struggled on offense and never contended. Cost Ted Marchibroda his job after going 16-31-1 in team's first three seasons in Baltimore.
ADDITIONS: Head coach Brian Billick; QB Scott Mitchell; QB Tony Banks; RB Eric Metcalf; WR Billy Davis; DB Chris McAlister, No. 1 pick; OL Harry Swayne.
SUBTRACTIONS: DL James Jones; QBs Jim Harbaugh and Eric Zeier; TE Eric Green; C Wally Williams; RT Orlando Brown; FB Roosevelt Potts.
PLAYER TO WATCH: Mitchell, who gets another chance as a starter after falling from grace in Detroit. He's key to an offense that failed to score 17 points in half its games last season.
OUTLOOK: Everyone loves Billick, who got the Ravens off to good exhibition start. Defense has standouts in LBS Ray Lewis and Peter Boulware and DE Mike McCrary, but the jury's still out on Mitchell.

CINCINNATI (3-13)

LAST YEAR: Fourth 3-13 record in the '90s left them 39-89 since Mike Brown started running the team. Bengals haven't had a winning record since 1990. The offense used four quarterbacks, the defense gave up franchise-record 452 points and record-matching 53 touchdowns.
ADDITIONS: OLs Brian DeMarco and Matt O'Dwyer, NT Oliver Gibson. QB Akili Smith, No. 1 pick, will learn behind Jeff Blake, but has been set back by holdout.
SUBTRACTIONS: QBs Neil O'Donnell and Paul Justin, S Sam Shade, DL Clyde Simmons, CB Ashley Ambrose, C Darrick Brilz, RB Eric Bieniemy, RB Brandon Bennett, OL Anthony Brown.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Blake, who's back after losing his job late in the 1997 season. Second-year LBs Brian Simmons and Takeo Spikes, who could solidify a leaky defense. And WR Carl Pickens, if he ever shows up.
OUTLOOK: The Bengals don't spend money, so Pickens and Smith held out. Won't be 3-13 but won't be good, either.

CLEVELAND

THIS YEAR: Returning to NFL following three-year hiatus after former owner Art Modell moved franchise to Baltimore.
ADDITIONS: Ninety players. Among notable veterans: LB Chris Spielman; RB Terry Kirby; OTs Lomas Brown and Orlando Brown; DT Jerry Ball.
PLAYER TO WATCH: Rookie QB Tim Couch, No. 1 overall draft pick. He will battle Ty Detmer for starting spot.
OUTLOOK: Defense and offensive line are solid on paper, but most are veterans who can go downhill quickly. Lack of skill players will make it tough for Detmer or Couch, whichever starts.

AFC EAST

NEW YORK JETS (12-4)

LAST YEAR: Won first division title ever, made it to AFC title game, losing to Denver, 23-10.
ADDITIONS: S Steve Atwater, LB Roman Phifer, TE Eric Green, QB Rick Mirer and QB-P Tom Tupa. Atwater, Phifer and Green should start. Rookie G Randy Thomas, team's first pick (in second round) is instant starter and could be a find, as T Jason Fabini was last year.
SUBTRACTIONS: TE Kyle Brady, G Matt O'Dwyer.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Keyshawn Johnson joined elite receivers in the game in 1998; LB Marvin Jones, who is healthy for one of few times in seven-year career.
OUTLOOK: Have top receivers, top linebacking (what else for a Bill Parcells team?) and are solid almost everywhere else. But QB Vinny Testaverde must stay healthy because Mirer, a huge disappointment in Seattle and Chicago, was obtained midway through camp and must learn offense. If they don't contend for AFC title, they'll be a disappointment.

MIAMI (10-6)

LAST YEAR: Earned a wild-card playoff berth, defeated Buffalo and lost in Denver, 38-3. Coach Jimmy Johnson, shaken by the death of his mother, decided to retire but changed his mind the next day.
ADDITIONS: WR Tony Martin, G Kevin Gogan, LB Dixon Edwards and three backfield rookies — RB J.J. Johnson, FB Rob Konrad and talented but troubled RB Cecil Collins.
SUBTRACTIONS: None
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Two players with off-field problems — Martin, on trial on charges of laundering drug money, and Collins, whose college career was limited by injury and arrest. Martin can be the deep threat Dan Marino needs and Collins the high-average-per carry running back.
OUTLOOK: The young defense that allowed the fewest points in the NFL should be even better, so another playoff berth is probable. If Collins and Martin can produce, they can challenge the Jets for the division title.

BUFFALO (10-6)

LAST YEAR: Lost three of first four games with Rob Johnson at QB. When he got hurt, Doug Flutie, back from Canada, led team to playoffs. Lost to Miami, 24-17, in first round.
ADDITIONS: Rookie WR Peerless Price, the second-round choice, could contribute immediately.
SUBTRACTIONS: No free-agent losses. CB Ray Jackson to expansion draft.
PLAYER TO WATCH: Flutie. Defenses may be better prepared for him. RB Antowain Smith, who had a disappointing second year.
OUTLOOK: Bills have a way of hanging around and have some elder statesmen — Flutie, Bruce Smith, Andre Reed and Thurman Thomas — to help younger players. Probably in lower half of AFC playoff contenders, but have a shot.

NEW ENGLAND (9-7)

LAST YEAR: Despite a rash of injuries, including quarterback Drew Bledsoe's broken finger, the Patriots won a wild-card berth but lost playoff game in Jacksonville, 25-10, with Scott Zolak in Bledsoe's place. RB Robert Edwards, who showed huge promise as a rookie, tore up his knee in beach game at Pro Bowl and future is in doubt.
ADDITIONS: C Damien Woody, LB Andy Katzenmoyer and RB Kevin Faulk, all draft picks who must produce immediately.
SUBTRACTIONS: Edwards, Zolak, LB Todd Collins, C Dave Wohlabaugh, P Tom Tupa. MLB Ted Johnson is out for the first half at least with a torn biceps.
PLAYER TO WATCH: DE Willie McGinest. If he can stay healthy after missing seven games last season, he adds major defensive help.
OUTLOOK: Loss of Edwards and Johnson are killers. Faulk probably isn't a heavy-duty back and Katzenmoyer, who must replace Johnson, has been slow to learn. In a tough spot in a tough division and coach Pete Carroll's job is on the line.

INDIANAPOLIS (3-13)

LAST YEAR: Badly hurt by defense, 29th in league overall, but emergence of rookie QB Peyton Manning was all that could have been expected from a rookie starting on a bad team.
ADDITIONS: DEs Chad Bratzke and Shawn King and S Chad Cota. RB Edgerrin James, first-round pick ahead of Ricky Williams.
SUBTRACTIONS: RB Marshall Faulk, P Chris Gardocki, DE Al Fontenot, DE Dan Footman.
PLAYER TO WATCH: James, who was chosen because he catches well and was said to fit offense better than Williams.
OUTLOOK: Should win a few more games, but this is a tough division and the defense still needs help.

See NFC Teams Page 30

NFL TEAM CAPSULES FOR 1999-00 SEASON

NFC EAST

DALLAS (10-6)

LAST YEAR: In his first season as head coach, Chan Gailey got Dallas back to playoffs after 6-10 finish in 1997. But Cowboys lost 20-7 to Arizona in Dallas.
ADDITIONS: WR Raghib Ismail, C Mark Stepnoski, and three rookies, DEs Ebenezer Ekuban and Peppi Zellner, and LB Dat Nguyen.
SUBTRACTIONS: DT Leon Lett (drug suspension), OL Nate Newton, WR Billy Davis.
PLAYER TO WATCH: CB Deion Sanders. Doctors aren't sure when he'll return from an April operation on an injured toe that knocked him out of five games. Dallas was 8-3 with him, 2-3 without him.
OUTLOOK: Another 10-win season will be tough considering that they're aging and playing a first-place schedule. Still, could win a weak division. Offensive line is improved and Troy Aikman is still one of the game's premier QBs.

ARIZONA (9-7)

LAST YEAR: Made playoffs for first time since 1982 with many victories last-second, hair-raising affairs. It was first winning season since 1984 and 20-7 win in Dallas was first playoff victory in 51 years.
ADDITIONS: WR David Boston could start, but OT L.J. Shelton, the other first-round draft pick was a holdout.
SUBTRACTIONS: OLB Jamir Miller, FB Larry Centers, OL Lomas Brown, KR Eric Metcalf, TE Chris Gedney.
PLAYER TO WATCH: DT Eric Swann, *the best when he's healthy.* But that's rarely and he may not be ready for opening day.
OUTLOOK: Jake Plummer is emerging as a great QB but nothing has gone right since last season. Veteran leaders Miller, Centers and Brown will be missed and auto accident that injured three players in camp was another damper.

NEW YORK GIANTS (8-8)

LAST YEAR: Started 3-7 finished 5-1, as Kent Graham replaced Danny Kanell at QB. Run included win over Denver that ended Broncos' hopes for unbeaten season.
ADDITIONS: QB Kerry Collins, TE Pete Mitchell, RB Sean Bennett, the No. 4 draft choice. Plus C Brian Williams, back after missing two seasons with eye injury.
SUBTRACTIONS: DE Chad Bratzke, WR Chris Calloway, G Greg Bishop, QB Danny Kanell, S Tito Wooten.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: CB Jason Sehorn, who missed all last season with knee injury and Brian Williams, who has solidified offensive line. But, who has pulled hamstring, may not be ready for opening day.
OUTLOOK: Have looked good in exhibitions because defense remains one of NFL's best and Graham has been playing QB like Otto, not Kent. If he's just two-thirds as good as he started (19-of-29 for 414 yards and four TDs in less than one full exhibition game), Giants will be favored to win division.

WASHINGTON (6-10)

LAST YEAR: Distracted by QB controversies, the Redskins started 0-7 and missed the playoffs for sixth straight year. A 6-3 finish saved coach Norv Turner's job — for now.
ADDITIONS: Owner Daniel Snyder, who paid a record $800 million for the team; QBs Brad Johnson and Rodney Peete; RB Larry Centers, DE Anthony Cook, T Andy Heck, S Sam Shade, CB Champ Bailey (first round pick) and WR Irving Fryar, out of retirement.
SUBTRACTIONS: QBs Gus Frerotte and Trent Green; RB Terry Allen; WR Leslie Shepherd; TE Jamie Asher; CB Cris Dishman; S Stanley Richard and Jesse Campbell.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: WR Michael Westbrook, perennial underachiever coming off neck surgery, and Johnson, often hurt and hobbled by knee injury during the offseason.
OUTLOOK: Snyder fired a bunch of team employees, including GM Charley Casserly and Turner is on a one-year leash. There could be 13 new starters on opening day and offensive line is patchwork. Johnson and Westbrook need to stay healthy for run at playoffs.

PHILADELPHIA (3-13)

LAST YEAR: Awful. Offense came close to scoring fewest points in modern NFL history. Coach Ray Rhodes was fired, replaced by former Green Bay QB coach Andy Reid.
ADDITIONS: WR Charles Johnson; QB Doug Pederson; DT Mark Wheeler; WR Torrance Small. QB Donovan McNabb, the No. 2 overall pick.
SUBTRACTIONS: OT Barrett Brooks; RB Charlie Garner; QB Rodney Peete. TE Jamie Asher, signed as a free agent, was injured early in camp.
PLAYER TO WATCH: McNabb, whose scrambling style could work with problem offensive line. Pederson is supposed to start the season, but fans will clamor early for the rookie (then probably boo him when he inevitably struggles).
OUTLOOK: It's a long road back. McNabb seems to be a quality prospect but getting thrown in early on a weak team isn't good for a quarterback's confidence. Offense looks as horrendous as last year's, if not worse.

NFC CENTRAL

MINNESOTA (15-1)

LAST YEAR: Had best regular-season record in NFL, but lost conference championship when Gary Anderson, who had the first perfect season for a kicker, missed a field goal that would have sent them to Super Bowl.
ADDITIONS: QB Jeff George; DE John Burrough, LB Corey Miller
SUBTRACTIONS: QB Brad Johnson, DE Derrick Alexander, NT Jerry Ball, CB Corey Fuller, FB Charles Evans.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Randall Cunningham and WR Randy Moss. Sometimes it's hard to repeat a season in which everything goes right.
OUTLOOK: Vikings are probably NFC favorite to get to Super Bowl. But they've looked uninspired early, and coach Dennis Green is reminding them to forget all those preseason predictions.

GREEN BAY (11-5)

LAST SEASON: Passed by Minnesota after three straight division titles and a Super Bowl victory in 1997; lost to 49ers on final play of first playoff game. Coach Mike Holmgren left to take job as general manager-coach in Seattle; replaced by ex-Eagles coach Ray Rhodes.
ADDITIONS: KR Desmond Howard, back for a second run; DB Antuan Edwards, No. 1 draft pick and potential starter. G Raleigh McKenzie. The players seem to be responding to Rhodes, a stark contrast to the more laid-back Holmgren.
SUBTRACTIONS: LB Lamont Hollinquest; RB Darick Holmes; RB Travis Jervey; G Adam Timmerman; QB Doug Pederson. DE Reggie White and WR Robert Brooks (retired).
PLAYER TO WATCH: WR Antonio Freeman, one of the best in the game. He must shine because rest of receiving corps is unproven.
OUTLOOK: As long as Brett Favre's around, the Packers will contend for the playoffs. But Brooks' retirement takes away Freeman's sidekick and White's retirement takes away a major force on defense and in the locker room.

NFC Teams

TAMPA BAY (8-8)

LAST YEAR: After making playoffs for first time in 15 years in '97, Bucs were hurt by heightened expectations. Finished second in the NFL in total defense, but the offense bogged down because of Trent Dilfer's inconsistency.
ADDITIONS: First-round draft pick Anthony McFarland adds depth on defensive line; Eric Zeier and second-round pick Shaun King improve quarterback depth.
SUBTRACTIONS: K Michael Husted, CB Anthony Parker, S Charles Mincy, QB Steve Walsh, FB Lorenzo Neal, P Tommy Barnhardt.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: CB Brian Kelly. Second-year pro should compete for starting job after productive year as rookie backup. Dilfer, who must produce this year or is likely gone.
OUTLOOK: Despite step back, Bucs have talent to challenge for NFC Central title and make noise in playoffs. But they can do it only if Dilfer finally makes substantial progress.

DETROIT (5-11)

LAST YEAR: Coach Bobby Ross lost confidence early in QB Scott Mitchell and started rookie Charlie Batch the rest of the season. RB Barry Sanders had subpar season and Lions again slid back after playoff year.
ADDITIONS: QB Gus Frerotte; OT Barrett Brooks; DTs James Jones and Kelvin Pritchett.
SUBTRACTIONS: Sanders (retired) QB Scott Mitchell; LB Rob Frederickson; DT Darius Holland; RB Tommy Vardell.
PLAYER TO WATCH: Batch, who showed considerable promise as rookie, certainly more than the more highly touted Ryan Leaf. RB Ron Rivers, who must replace Sanders unless Barry comes back or they trade for someone else.
OUTLOOK: Without Sanders, could challenge Bears for bottom unless Batch has sensational season.

CHICAGO (4-12)

LAST YEAR: Lost their first four games, and won just once in the second half to finish 4-12 for a second straight season and get Dave Wannstedt fired.
ADDITIONS: Coach Dick Jauron; QB Cade McNown, their No. 1 draft pick; OT Blake Brockermeyer; DE Clyde Simmons.
SUBTRACTIONS: S Marty Carter; DE John Thierry.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: McNown, who after holdout was thrown into the starting job. The big question is how much the inevitable bad season on a bad team will hurt his future. Curtis Enis, last year's top pick, who injured a knee just as he was coming around.
OUTLOOK: Help!

NFC WEST

ATLANTA (14-2)

LAST SEASON: Two years after going 3-13 and a year after finishing 7-9 in Dan Reeves' first season as coach, they reached their first Super Bowl, by upsetting the Vikings in overtime in Minnesota. Lost 35-19 to Broncos in title game.
ADDITIONS: WR Chris Calloway; QB Danny Kanell; G Greg Bishop; S Marty Carter.
SUBTRACTIONS: WR Tony Martin; S Devin Bush; DE Antonio Edwards.
PLAYER TO WATCH: QB Chris Chandler, who emerged at 33 after a career beset by injuries but has to stay healthy and produce again.
OUTLOOK: Post-title troubles have already started — RB Jamal Anderson held out and team seems sluggish. Falcons are unlikely to go 14-2 again, but they're solid enough to make playoffs.

SAN FRANCISCO (12-4)

LAST YEAR: Behind the league's most prolific offense, reached double-digit wins for the 16th straight season. Beat Green Bay 30-27 on last second TD, then lost to Atlanta, which had beaten them in NFC West.
ADDITIONS: RBs Lawrence Phillips and Charlie Garner; DEs Charles Haley and Marvin Washington, QBs Steve Stenstrom and Jeff Garcia, FB Tommy Vardell, CB Mark McMillian.
SUBTRACTIONS: QB Ty Detmer, OTs Kirk Scrafford and Jamie Brown, G Kevin Gogan, RBs Garrison Hearst (injury), Terry Kirby and Chuck Levy, CBs Marquez Pope and Antonio Langham, FB Marc Edwards, DEs Chris Doleman and Roy Barker.
PLAYER TO WATCH: Steve Young: The 37-year-old quarterback is coming off one of his best seasons, finishing with a team-record 4,170 yards passing. But the salary-cap caused Detmer trade and Garcia, Stenstrom and Jim Druckenmiller are all unproven. Young has had injury problems in the past and could be vulnerable behind San Francisco's revamped offensive line.
OUTLOOK: If Young stays healthy, they'll probably win at least 10 again because of the offense. But defense, with T Bryant Young still recovering from badly broken leg, is big question. May play a lot of 42-35 games.

NEW ORLEANS (6-10)

LAST YEAR: Made no progress in W-L column in Mike Ditka's second season as coach. Ditka blamed that on loss of QB Billy Joe Hobert in the season opener. Saints were 28th overall in offense, last in the league in rushing and defense.
ADDITIONS: RB Ricky Williams, for whom Saints gave up all their draft picks. WR Eddie Kennison, G Wally Williams, CB Ashley Ambrose.
SUBTRACTIONS: QBs Kerry Collins and Heath Shuler. S Chad Cota, WR Sean Dawkins.
PLAYER TO WATCH: Ricky Williams. He has incentive-laden contract and Ditka basically bet the franchise on him by giving up all his picks and additional first-rounders.
OUTLOOK: Williams sprained an ankle in first exhibition game, a demonstration of just how big a risk Ditka has taken. Even with a healthy Williams, a team with the Billy Joes (Hobert and Tolliver) at QB is not Super Bowl threat.

ST. LOUIS (4-12)

LAST YEAR: Never got going in Dick Vermeil's second year and stumbled on offense behind now-departed QB Tony Banks and inept running game.
ADDITIONS: QB Trent Green; G Adam Timmerman; RB Marshall Faulk; WR Torry Holt, their No. 1 draft pick.
SUBTRACTIONS: QB Tony Banks, WR Eddie Kennison, LBs Roman Phifer and Eric Hill.
PLAYERS TO WATCH: Green and Faulk. Green was a career third-stringer until he blossomed in Washington last season. The question is whether he can do it again. Faulk had best year in Indianapolis last season but has been injury prone.
OUTLOOK: Maybe .500 if they beat up on other weak teams in division. But probably not.

CAROLINA (4-12)

LAST YEAR: The fourth-year team had its worst season as injuries and low morale dominated. Season's most memorable image may have been linebacker Kevin Greene attacking an assistant coach on the sideline during a loss to the Redskins.
ADDITIONS: George Seifert, who has the highest winning percentage of any coach in NFL history, replaces fired Dom Capers. QBs Jeff Lewis and Steve Bono.
SUBTRACTIONS: LB Jeff Brady, T Blake Brockermeyer.
PLAYER TO WATCH: DE Sean Gilbert, the team's highest-paid player, was inconsistent in Capers' 3-4 defen*sive alignment but may be better in* Seifert's 4-3. He'd better be
OUTLOOK: The odds favor Carolina avoiding the extensive injury troubles of last season, but the Panthers still don't appear to have the depth needed to challenge Atlanta, San Francisco and the rest of the improving NFC West, although Steve Beuerlein, Lewis and Bono have all looked good.

Graham.....

Continued from Page 3

four district games will be played away from home. Graham will play just four home games this season. Following the opener against Bluefield, other home games will be against Tennessee High (Sept. 11), Gate City (Oct. 1) and Elizabethton, Tenn. (Oct. 22).

The six road games facing the G-Men include visits to Blacksburg (Sept. 3), Richlands (Sept. 24), Grundy (Oct. 8), Tazewell (Oct. 15), Carroll County (Oct. 29), and Mount View (Nov. 5).

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Summers.....

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Other home dates include Hurley, Va. (Sept. 10), Iaeger (Oct. 1), Montcalm (Oct. 15), and Liberty-Raleigh (Nov. 5).

The Indians will play at Marsh Fork (Sept. 3), Baileysville (Sept. 17), Independence (Sept. 24), Williamson (Oct. 22), and Chapmanville (Oct. 29).

BHS Rough Riders

BRENTON - Baileysville would like to improve on its 1-9 record from last year. But the task will be a difficult one because of the numbers game.

The Rough Riders must find a replacement at quarterback. Adam Vance (5-11, 185, Sr.) or Jason Steele (6-0, 165, Sr.) will likely get the call. Vance was a tailback last year, having rushed for over 600 yards.

Junior fullback B.J. Cline (5-10, 210) is back.

Other top returners include center T.J. Vance (5-10, 240, Sr.), tackle Zack Queen (6-0, 220, Jr.), and William Stonebreaker (6-1, 155, Sr.).

Baileysville will open at home against Meadow Bridge (Aug. 27). Other home games include Iaeger (Sept. 10), Oceana (Sept. 17), Montcalm (Oct. 8), and Burch (Oct. 29).

Road games include Williamson (Sept. 3), Gilbert (Sept. 24), Shady Spring (Oct. 1), Marsh Fork (Oct. 15), and Liberty-Raleigh (Oct. 29).

Bluefield.....

Continued from Page 2

returning statewide.

"We have some experience up front and that helps. It's important that we play well early in the season, especially playing the schedule we do," Simon said.

Senior John Patton (6-3, 171) returns as an end. Others include junior Jason Thompson (6-0, 170), Ronnell Thompson (6-0, 190) and John Canterbury (6-0, 169) among others.

Bluefield's success offensively will have a lot to do with how well the Beavers play on defense. Bluefield has always been solid along the defensive front and secondary.

They must limit opponents scoring chances early on to give the offense a chance to score.

"We'll just have to get ready to play each and every time out," Simon concluded.

Stadium.....

Continued from Page 21

"We wanted to create a stadium where people feel comfortable coming to long before the flip of the coin."

The school also got new lights for the 199 season, with the old lighting system heading down to Clinch Valley College.

"The new lights will be a very good improvement for us," Fletcher said. "They meet ESPN's criteria for lighting on the field."

Under the south end zone stands, new locker rooms await the teams. Virginia's locker room occupies much of the area under the middle of the stands, and the team will stream out of two doors behind the goal post in going onto the field.

The visitors locker room will be bigger than Virginia's former home locker room at the site. Overall, the space available for the team has doubled since the construction.

"There's a tremendous increase of quantity and quality of the space," Fletcher said.

Bluefield's Yubrenal Isabelle, who has played two years at Scott Stadium, has watched the stadium change shape through the off-season.

"I've driven pat it a couple of times. I'm excited to get in there, get the lights on and see how it will be," Isabelle said. "It's always exciting to have something new."

The construction hammer and hard hats won't be put away after the first kickoff.

Work will continue on the upper deck seating throughout the fall, resuming the Sunday morning after Wake Forest visits.

"Fans should know that this is a construction site and will be for the season," Fletcher said. "It's kind of neat because fans can watch us build the upper deck as the season goes along."

WVU.....

Continued from Page 28

He said three or four newcomers probably will play this season. Those would come from among tailbacks Quincy Wilson and Cassell Smith, defensive end Jason Davis and center Tim Brown, all freshmen, and junior-college transfer John Paricka, a defensive lineman.

"Wilson is a little better than I thought he would be, and I really liked him when we signed him," Nehlen said. "He can help us on special teams now. Then we'll gradually work him into the tailback rotation."

He reiterated his intention to play any freshmen capable of providing immediate help.

"I'm not going to save a bunch of players for the NFL," Nehlen said. "We're paying their way to school. So let them play now if they can help."

He thinks junior Wes Ours, a former fullback, is doing well at offensive guard where he'll see some action. "We like him," he said. "He's not ready now, but we're trying to get him ready."

Nehlen also said:

- Mark Plants is the No. 1 fullback while veteran starter Anthony Green is nursing an ankle injury.
- Avon Cobourne probably will be the starting tailback when the season starts.

Tazewell.....

Continued from Page 10

quicker and work well together."

Barrett is a key to the defense, as well, working from his safety spot where he had 43 solo tackles and 39 assists, plus two interceptions in '98. Defensive backs Stuart Angles and Joe Mabry will be the other members of the tandem which is perhaps the strongest part of the Dog Day Defense.

Boothe, Vance, and Dillon are all experienced linemen who Hart says have "worked hard in the weight room to get better and stronger." Jermaine Davis (jr.-200) is starting his first season at end with Matney his partner as a second-year starter. Zane Angle and Marshall Taylor, along with Kevin Lambert (sr.-170) and Brett St. Peter (jr.-195) are linebackers working to get ready for a tough assignment this year. Thompson is also likely to see some action.

The kicking game appears to be a real plus with Stuart Angles returning as an All-Region punter and Seth Hambrick a proven talent at kickoffs and PATs. Special teams, as Hart says, could well be the key to winning a couple of the important games this season.

Sam Angles will be coaching the offensive and defensive lines, with Tom Keene (running backs/def. ends), Dennis Grindstaff (off. line/def. backs), Brad Strong (QBs/def. line), Ernie Yost (receivers/def. backs), and Steve Mitchem (tight ends/def. backs). Adam Lallande and Randall Compton handle the middle school chores.

"Compared to Richlands and Graham, we're not very big. Either of those teams could be favorites to win the district," says Hart.

"Our expectations are up because we have won some and that has made it easier to demand more in practice because we have started to see some results."

Bulldog fans are hoping to see quite a few more this season.

Grundy.....

Continued from Page 14

Slone has experience at one end and Baldwin is the front-runner for the other spot at the beginning of the season. Freshman P.J. Justus (5-7, 174) and junior Jeremy Ward (6-3, 225) have also gotten looks at defensive end.

The linebacking spots are in good hands, with four returnees, including the all-district Crumpton and all-district caliber Luke Dales in the middle and Looney and Canaan Parter on the outside.

Stiltner and Stacy and possibly freshman J.T. Pruitt (5-10, 146) will start the season in the Grundy secondary.

The start of the season, meanwhile, is important for a young squad which needs a boost in its confidence after a rough second half in 1998.

"A good start is important for our confidence," Rowe said. "We've still young, but these kids work hard. And we've got pretty good senior ledership, even with just five seniors.

"It's a fine group to coach and work with. They're not real vocal, they're not rah-rah types, but by same time Friday night, we get the best out of them."

Garden.....

Continued from Page 15

Wright (5-11, 145), and Ryan Ratliff (5-9, 134) and diminutive sophomore Derick Ratliff (5-1, 120).

Senior Kevin Meadows (6-0, 178) could be a key Dragon as a blocking back and a key man on defense as one of four returnees on the defensive line.

Joining Meadows at defensive end will be Hager. Hale and Helton return at tackle, while Bradley will work the middle of Garden's five-man defensive front.

Keen moves over to join Hill and Dales at linebacker, while Wright plays opposite Coleman at a corner. Derick Ratliff is the safety, while sophomore Patrick Wade (5-11, 141) is also vying for a spot in the Garden secondary.

Garden has the experience and quickness to improve on last year's defensvie numbers. The Dragons gave up over 30 points per game in 1998.

"I worry about big teams with depth who can wear us down," Rife said.

"But basically, we have an experienced and much improved team. And that includes the defense."

Haysi.....

Continued from Page 15

because John and Kory were so good. But we hae some talent."

Haysi returns five starters on both offense and defense from last year's 6-5 club, including Hall.

Like Salyers, Hall split his time last season between running back and quarterback in the Tigers' multi-faceted offensive attack and was first team All-BDD as a utility man.

Owens caught 10 touchdown passes last year and he was overlooked at linebacker, where he was one of the Tigers leading tacklers.

Other returning starters for Haysi on offense are center B.J. Justice (5-10, 250, Sr.), left guard Wes Salyers (6-0, 230, Jr.) and fullback Russell Justice (5-10, 200, Sr.).

There will be a first-time starter at both tackle spots, with either David O'Quinn (5-10, 220, So.), or Greg Lester (5-9, 250, So.), joining senior Derrick Yates (5-11, 255, Jr.). The right guard will be Justin Fuller (5-9, 240, Jr.).

The balance of the skill positions will be handled mostly by returnees with significant varsity experience.

When the Tigers many formations requires a wing man, junior Garon Turner (5-10, 170)will get the call.

"We're counting on a lot of new people to step it up, but they're really good kids who work hard. And we expect contributions from all of them."

Owens and all-district defensive back Nathan O'Quinn will start at linebacker and B.J. Justice moves there from the defensive line.

Russell Justice is the most experienced of the four candidates to start at defensive end for Haysi.

Also vying there are Fuller, seinor Gavin Counts (5-11, 185) and a freshman, Mike Deel (5-10, 175).

Salyers, who earned all-district honors and two newcomers will anchor the interior of Haysi's defensive front line. Salyers and Yates will start at tackles, while Travis Rasnick (5-8, 210, Sr.) opens the season in the middle.

Thomas returns at cornerback. With him in the secondary will be Hall at safety and Nathan Anderson (5-8, 160, Sr.) on th other corner.

Time will tell if the Tigers can return to the top in 1999.

Richlands.....

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the always tough Blues schedule starts with a humdinger, at 1999 SWD favorite and archrival Tazewell.

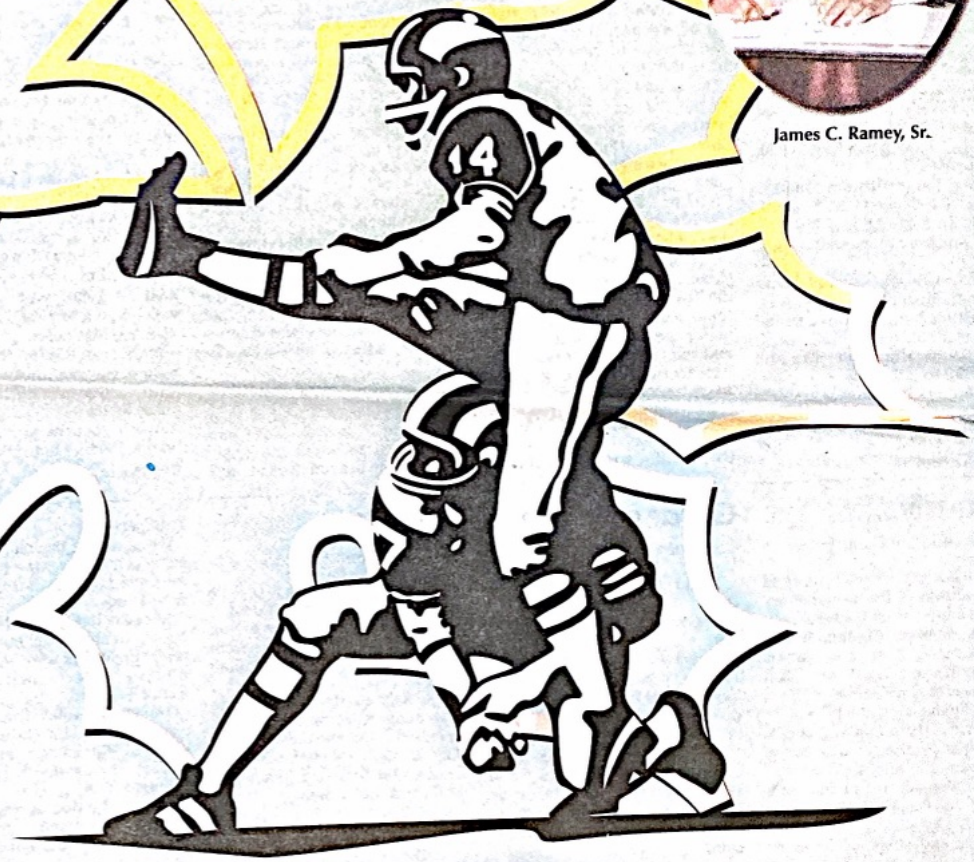
"It's going to be a tough place to open the season," Mance said. "They have Drew Barrett at quarterback, and he's been there four years, they have a bunch of returning starters, and there will be 8,000 people there."

"There are no easy games on our schedule. But this team still needs time to get its feet wet and get some experience."

GRID IRON '99

Mr. Ramey & Ramey Princeton would like to wish all area teams Best of Luck in the Upcoming Season!

James C. Ramey, Sr.



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